



Malaysia
Truly Asia

YOUR
DIVING
Paradise



Pulau Payar 5
West coast Peninsular Malaysia most popular island for snorkelling and diving. Comprises of Pulau Payar, Pulau Kaca, Pulau Lembu and Pulau Segantang.



Pulau Pangkor 7
The nearest diving island from Kuala Lumpur with a range accommodation from basic chalets to luxurious hotels.



Pulau Perhentian 9
An idyllic island with beautiful beaches framed by huge boulders. Suitable for divers of all levels. A favourite island for back packers and budget travellers.



Pulau Lang Tengah 11
When translated means 'Eagle resting in the middle of the island'. Being located midway between Pulau Perhentian and Pulau Redang, divers can access dive sites other than Pulau Lang Tengah.



Pulau Redang 12
The first Marine Park Centre was established on this island. Conservation efforts have resulted in Pulau Redang having prolific coral growth and fish life.



Pulau Tenggol 15
Unique underwater boulder terrain and interesting macro animals makes Pulau Tenggol different from the other Peninsular Malaysia islands.



Pulau Tioman 16
Renown as the location for the Hollywood movie 'Bali Hai', Pulau Tioman has a number of islands with interesting diversity of marine life and diving profile.

THAILAND

Top Dive Sites of Malaysia



Tunku Abdul Rahman Park Islands 19
Located just 15 minutes from mainland Kota Kinabalu, these islands offer easy dives with plenty of time to relax on the white sandy beaches.



Pulau Lankayan 21
A remote island with an extraordinary variety of coral life, reef fishes and bizarre macro animal life. Divers and look forward to relaxing in well appointed accommodation.



Pulau Mabul and Pulau Kapalai 22
Sabah's popular site for macro enthusiasts seeking to encounter rare and hard to find macro animal life. Every dive holds a surprise.



Pulau Labuan 23
An off shore financial business centre with some of the best wreck diving to be found in Malaysia. Nature has transformed the wrecks to a garden of life.



Pulau Layang Layang 25
Pulau Layang Layang offers encounters with the unknown. Rising 2000 metres from the sea-bed, the reef attracts a number of pelagic fish such as tunas, sharks and more sharks.



Pulau Kapas

14

In addition to easy diving around the island, Pulau Kapas also offers interesting topside activities like squid fishing, sunset cruises and other activities.

Malaysia
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YOUR DIVING *Paradise*



Pulau Aur

17

The long journey to this remote island from mainland is rewarded with pristine corals and exciting fish action. Currents sweeping the submerged reefs attract plenty of pelagic fish.



Pulau Talang-Talang

27

The essentially hard coral seascape extends to rocky bottom. Sponges and sea fans grow among the hard corals.

Malaysia is fast becoming one of the leading dive destinations of the world with the richest marine environment in the Indo-Pacific Basin. The incredible bio-diversity of marine life coupled with beautiful islands with white sandy beaches and clear warm waters keep the divers coming back for more. From schooling hammerhead sharks, huge schools of barracudas and various turtles to the bizarre frogfish or ghost pipefish, there is always something to fascinate the diver. In Malaysia, the coral reef ecosystem is reported to support aquatic organism numbering more than 50 genera of coral and more than 200 species of fish. Each time a marine bio-diversity survey is conducted in the Malaysian tropical sea, the species list increases.

Dive centres in Malaysia are well equipped and are certified by relevant agencies for maintaining their standards of safety and professionalism. Scuba diving courses endorsed by certifying agencies like PADI, NAUI, SSI and BSAC. Some of the courses available include the initial 'Openwater Course', 'Diving Instructor Course' or even a 'Re-breather Course'. Upon completion of your scuba course you can be outfitted with the latest scuba equipment of most international brands available from dive centres in Malaysia.

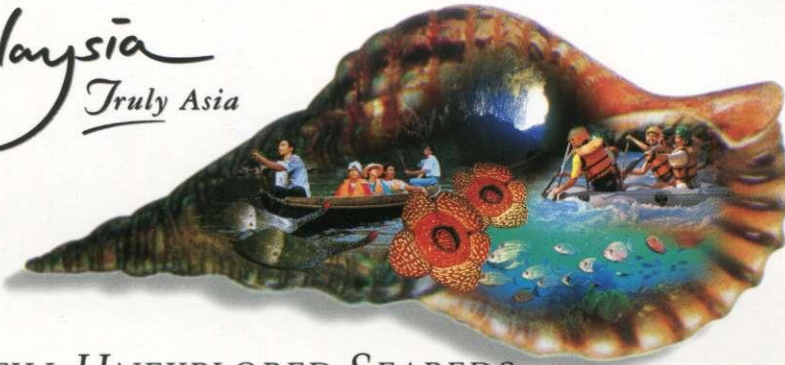
Almost all the islands in Malaysia cater for divers of all levels of experience - be it easy shore diving to advance wreck diving or technical diving. Operators engaged with technical diving are well equipped with portable emergency oxygen kits, special tank refilling equipment and other necessary facilities.

Top dive sites around Malaysia include diving along gentle sloping reefs, submerged reefs, coral blocks, wall dives, deep dives, drift dives and wreck dives. Dive operators, like any other around the world, will insist on seeing your certification for the type of diving that you wish to do and to undergo a check-out dive. To advance your skills in scuba diving, dive centres are able to offer further scuba courses at competitive and affordable rates.

This brochure aims to highlight most of the best diving sites of Malaysia, which will equip you with information to make your diving holiday a truly enjoyable experience.

Malaysia is situated at the heart of Southeast Asia, which comprises of Peninsular Malaysia and the states of Sabah and Sarawak. Peninsular Malaysia is bordered in the north by Thailand, and Singapore towards the south. While the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak located in the northern part of the island of Borneo is separated by 500 kilometres of the South China Sea from Peninsular Malaysia.

Malaysia
Truly Asia



THE STILL UNEXPLORED SEABEDS

Introduction

Malaysia's tropical forests and seas are the ancient homes to a staggering diversity of animal and plant life that has evolved through the years. The rainforests are reputed to be among the oldest in the region, estimated to be about 130 million years old. A trek into the rainforest is an encounter with diverse animal life. Similarly, a dip below the warm sea's surface guarantees an astounding experience with a spectrum of marine life, rivaling anything found in the forests.

Malaysia's spectacular



Aerial view of Tunku Abdul Rahman Park Islands.

tropical reefs boast of encounters with unique macro animals and large pelagics within a single destination. Macro animal life is scarce in areas where larger predators are present

for obvious reasons. Only a handful of diving sites in the world can offer both these sights in one diving holiday.

Comprising of the Peninsular Malaysia and the states of Sabah and Sarawak, Malaysia rests on the continental shelf of Southeast Asia, with the western coast of the Peninsular Malaysia separated from Sumatra by the Straits of Malacca. The South China Sea separates the peninsular Malaysia from Sabah and Sarawak.



Sunflower corals blossom in dark areas.



In dim light, the anemones often close up.

Along the western Peninsular Malaysia coast, the diversity of marine life around the waters of Pulau Pangkor and Pulau Payar differ from those observed in the waters of the eastern coast of the Peninsular Malaysia. Pulau Perhentian, Pulau Lang Tengah, Pulau Redang, Pulau Kapas, Pulau Tenggol and the Pulau Tioman group of islands feature good coral growth and abundant fish life.

Surrounded by the nutrient-rich South China Sea and the Sulawesi Sea, the state of Sabah are the true oceanic



Taking a closer look at a turtle.



The orang utan sanctuary at Sepilok.



Underwater flora and fauna of Malaysia tropical reef.



The state-of-the-art KL International Airport (KLIA).



A number of migratory birds stop over on Pulau Layang Layang.



Danum Valley canopy walk.

depths of 600 metres to more than 1000 metres, different from the waters of Peninsular Malaysia islands. Located some 300 nautical miles from mainland Kota Kinabalu, Pulau Layang Layang is blessed with the best water visibility from 20

to 50 metres. The Tunku Abdul Rahman Park islands are popular for training and easy dives, whereas to fully savour Pulau Sipadan one should be an advance diver. Pulau Lankayan, Pulau Mabul and Pulau Kapalai are famous for their 'muck dives' (that is

diving in the coral rubble areas seeking out macro animals).

Pulau Talang Talang and Turtle Rock off Sarawak feature reef diving and further away from the mainland, divers can engage in wreck diving Katori Maru (a World

War II Japanese troop carrier).

Malaysia located in the heart of the Indo-Pacific basin is in the heart of one of the world's richest marine biodiversity area, where scientists believe the marine life of the Pacific Ocean evolved.



Kuala Lumpur garden city of light.





About 35 kilometres from the west coast of Kedah state is a cluster of 99 islands collectively known as Langkawi. The name Langkawi actually belongs to the largest inhabited island in the group. In addition to the island's many land and underwater natural beauty, Langkawi's duty-free port status has provided visitors with another reason to visit the island.

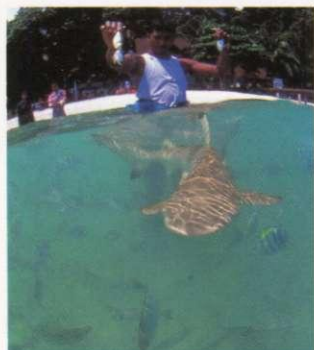
West Coast Peninsular Malaysia **PULAU PAYAR** LANGKAWI



Tourists enjoying themselves at the beach in front of the Marine Park Centre on Pulau Payar.

Diving

A number of diving operators can be found either located within a hotel or at dive centres around Pulau Langkawi.



The presence of tourists in the water attract numerous curious fish seeking food

Most diving is done around Pulau Payar Marine Park Group of islands. Strict conservation laws enforced by Marine Park Rangers around the islands have

resulted in prolific marine life. A unique highlight in Pulau Payar is the presence of up to 20 juvenile black tip sharks providing excitement to the many snorkellers who visit the Marine Park centre. Although at times the plankton-rich waters can reduce visibility, the abundance of fish makes up for it, fusiliers, jacks, black tip sharks, barracudas and groupers are sighted on a regular basis. Coral life is a mixture of hard and soft corals. Pulau Kaca is a favourite for easy, shallow wreck diving, with dozens of sunken fishing trawlers providing refuge for a variety of marine animals. The Pulau Payar group of

island offer the best diving along the west coast.

Pulau Payar

(West Coast Peninsular Malaysia)

Pulau Payar is located south east of Langkawi and north of Penang Island. No form of accommodation is available on the island; only the Marine Park centre occupies its solitary beach. Speedboats or catamaran shuttle divers from Langkawi to Pulau Payar Marine Park within an hour.

The best diving is to be

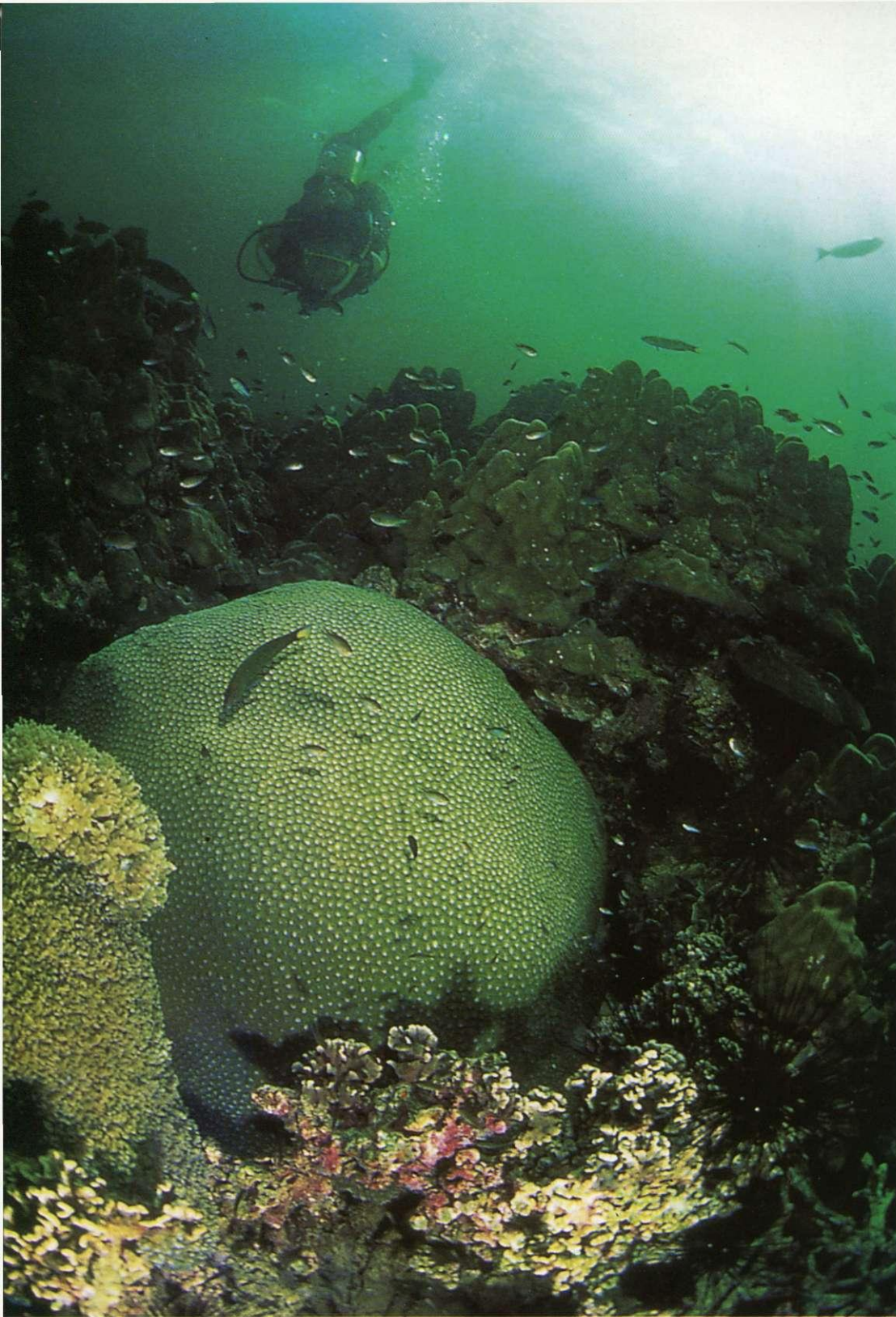
found from the western tip to the southern and eastern portion of Pulau Payar.

Coral Garden

Coral garden is located on the western tip of Pulau Payar. This dive site features both hard and soft corals along the island's rocky terrain with depths from 5 to 18 metres. Visibility averages between 5 to 15 metres. Huge boulders carpeted with dendronephthya soft corals offer numerous crevices that attract marine life seeking refuge from predators. Fish



Bannerfish (*Hemichromis diphreutes*) schooling together for protection under the Marine Park jetty.



The sea surrounding Pulau Payar is home to a diverse ecosystem of coral and fish life.

life is abundant, with damselfish, fusiliers, lionfish, schooling jacks and occasional huge groupers.

Grouper Farm

Suitably named, this dive site located towards the southern end of Pulau Payar is home to small schooling fish nervously darting about

due to the presence of numerous groupers. Hard corals dominate the seascape with the reef top gradually sloping down to about 15 metres to the sandy bottom. If a slight current is present, a drift dive is the best approach to this site, but watch out for spiny sea urchins.

Pulau Kaca

Situated towards the east of Pulau Payar is some easy wreck diving off Pulau Kaca. Dozens of sunken fishing trawlers are found around Pulau Kaca creating artificial reefs. Rocky topside topography gives way to hard coral growth at 5 metres and slopes to a sandy

bottom at about 18 metres. A diver does not require any bearing to locate the wrecks, as he is bound to encounter the scattered vessels in almost any direction. Coral blocks on the sandy bottom are inhabited by abundant small reef fishes, mollusks and nudibranchs. Try to maintain good buoyancy, as the sandy seabed is littered with sea urchins.

Pulau Segantang

This twin rocky outcrop is located 13 kilometres towards the west of Pulau Payar. Pulau Segantang features steep rocky terrain plunging into the sea to a sandy bottom at 20 metres. Nurse sharks, barracudas and jacks are very common here. Fusiliers will curiously swim around intruding divers. Here, hard corals and sea fans are found on the slopes between 15 to 20 metres. Lobster, moray eels and mollusks are also commonly observed.

Getting There

Langkawi is easily accessible by air, sea, road and rail from various gateway points. Langkawi's international airport links to various countries and has several daily flights from Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Singapore. Ferry services are also available from Kuala Perlis, Kuala Kedah and Penang. The best way to get around the island is to hire motorcycles or cars that are easily available for rental from the airport and Kuah town centre.



West Coast
Peninsular Malaysia
PULAU PANGKOR
PERAK



Soft corals normally thrive in current areas.

Pulau Pangkor

Lumut, the kick off point to Pulau Pangkor and Pulau Sembilan, is only about 2 1/2 hours drive from Kuala Lumpur. Boats from Lumut will take about an hour to ferry you to the islands.

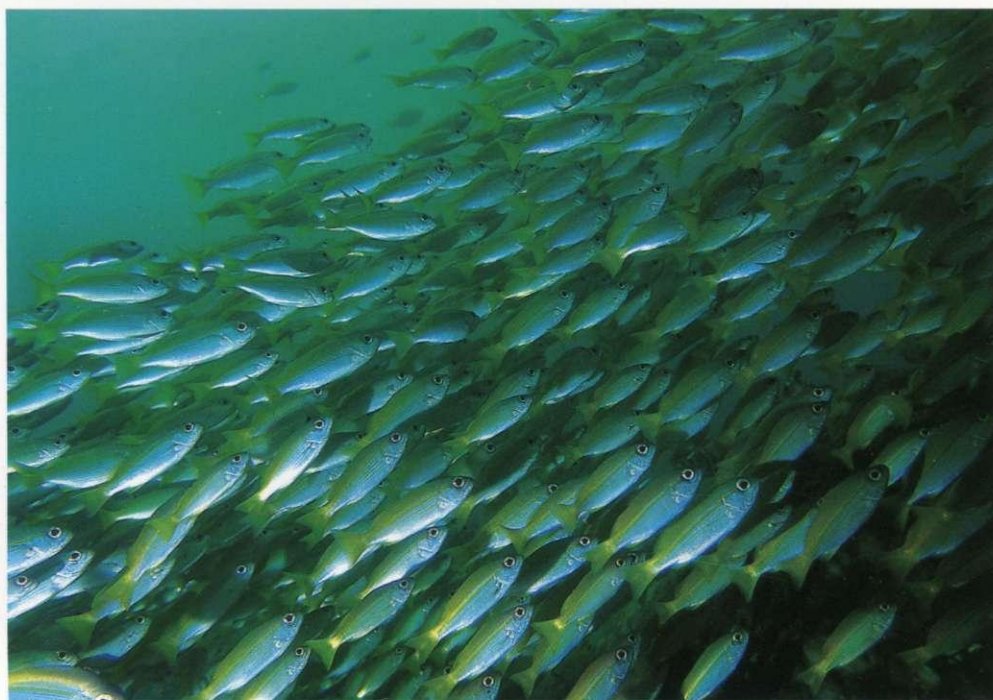
Most diving around Pulau Pangkor is done around the Pulau Sembilan group of islands located 27 kilometres south. The nine islands are uninhabited and any

trip has to be arranged with local dive operators based in Kuala Lumpur. Usually when the diving season in East Coast islands wind down from November to March, local divers will head for Pulau Sembilan.

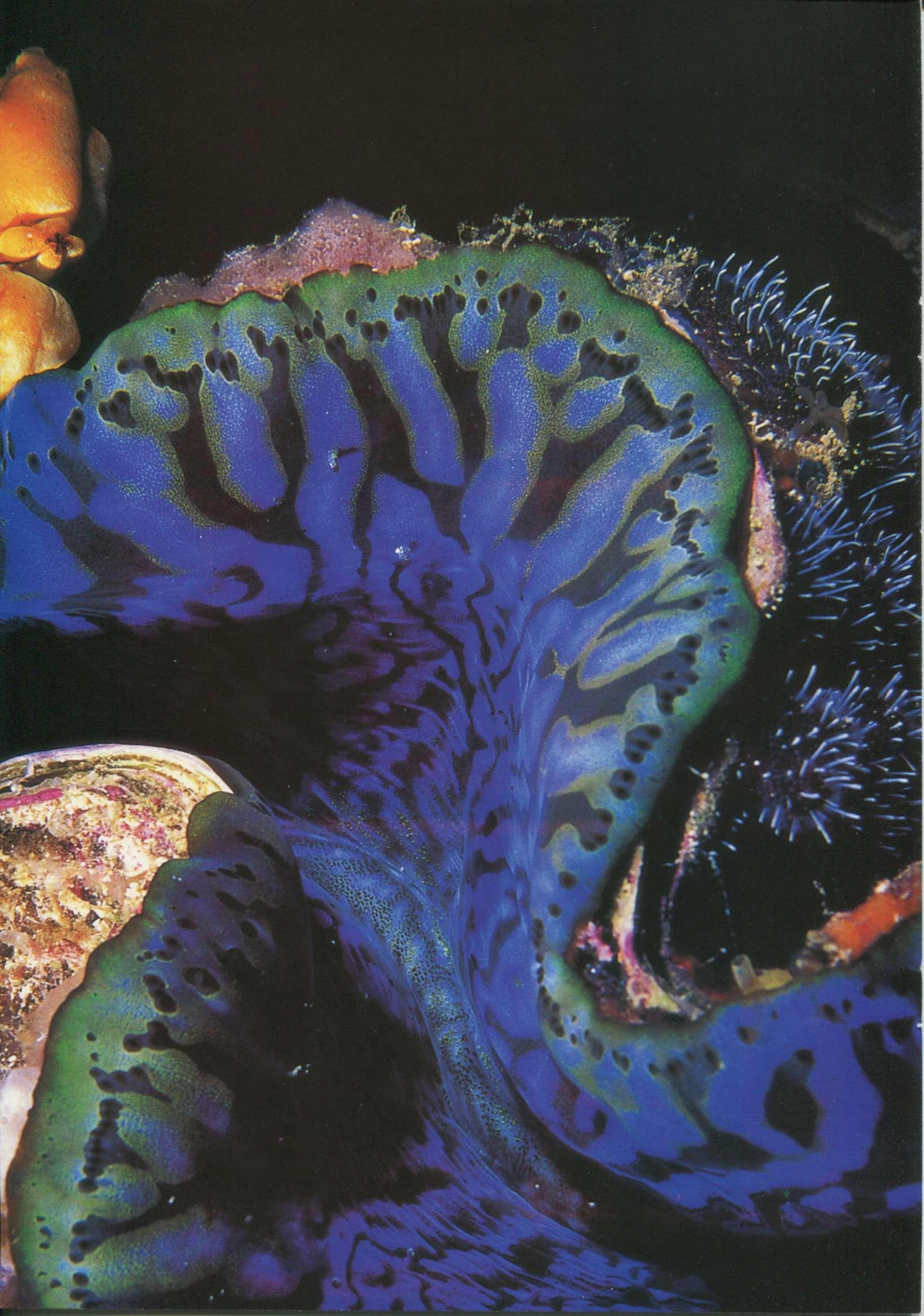
Hard corals dominate the seascape with several large boulders carpeted with sponges. Fusiliers, jacks, parrotfish, humphead wrasses, barracudas, nudibranchs and sometimes the odd seahorse, can be seen.

The most popular site is White Rock. It is a steep solitary rock visible above water with a lighthouse built on it. Visibility is usually better when dived with slight currents.

Currents sweeping the site can sometime get a little too strong for divers and caution must be practiced. Groupers, stingrays and other reef fish can be observed hiding in between the many crevices of the boulders.



Fusiliers School in large group to avoid any predator attack.





Golden sandy beaches with shady coconut palms coastline stretches from the state of Kelantan through the state of Terengganu and Pahang and extends south to Johor. Thailand borders the East Coast towards the north. Being geographically cut off by the mountainous Main Range, the East Coast has retained its traditional customs, arts and crafts, coconut plantations and unique traditional houses. The unhurried pace of life makes it an ideal destination for a relaxing holiday far from the maddening crowd.

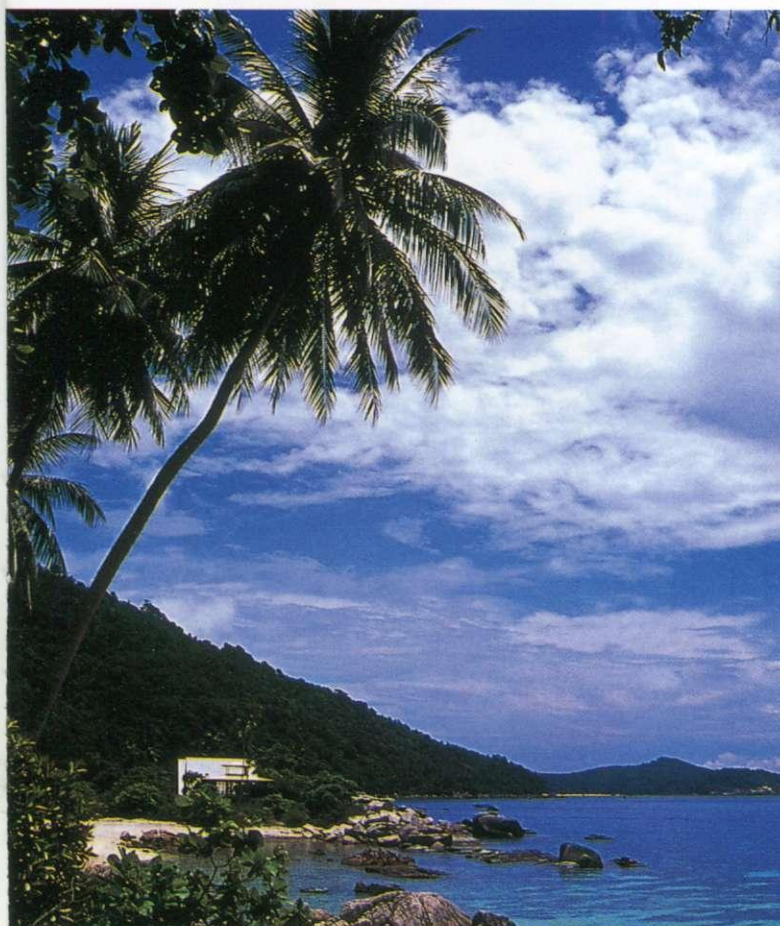
East Coast Peninsular Malaysia PULAU PERHENTIAN TERENGGANU

Terengganu

Terengganu stretches along the east coast between Kelantan to the north and Pahang the south with a coastline of 225 kilometres. The beautiful golden sandy beaches along the coastline are also one of the very few



A Blenny (*Blenniidae*) perched on a sponge.



View of one of the beautiful beaches in Pulau Perhentian.

Opposite page

The colourful mantle of the giant clam (*Tridacna gigas*).



nesting grounds of the Giant Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

Diving

The state of Terengganu is blessed with some of the most beautiful islands with the finest diving sites on the east coast. Pulau Perhentian is the northernmost island followed by Pulau Lang Tengah, Pulau Redang, Pulau Bidong, Pulau Kapas and Pulau Tenggol towards the south.

The healthy coral growth and abundant fish life owe their existence to the enforcement and conservation programs of the Department of Fisheries.

Fringing reefs are a blend of hard corals species with patches of dendronephthya soft corals, whip corals and sponges growing on boulders. Seascape terrain is either gentle slopes or plunging

granite boulders, with most dive sites accessible by boat. Currents around the reefs are usually manageable, with the submerged reefs washed by slightly stronger currents. Mooring buoys mark most popular dive sites around the Marine Park islands.

Pulau Perhentian

Pulau Perhentian group of islands comprises of Pulau Perhentian Besar, Pulau Perhentian Kecil, Pulau Rawa, Pulau Serenggeh, Pulau Susu Dara Besar and Pulau Susu Dara Kecil. These islands are located about 20 kilometres from the main land.

'Perhentian' when translated from the Malay language means stop over and the word 'Besar' means big while 'Kecil' means small. Dive operators and resorts are located on both Pulau Perhentian Besar and Pulau Perhentian Kecil offering various styles of



Hard corals dominate most of the underwater seascape in Pulau Perhentian.

accommodation to suit the visitor's budget and dive packages.

Tokong Laut

This rocky outcrop islet is situated on the northwest of Pulau Perhentian Kecil and is accessible by a 30 minutes speedboat ride. The boulder-like terrain gradually slopes down to about 30 metres. Strong to mild currents usually sweep the boulders bringing plankton-rich nutrients and attract anything from pelagics to the whale shark. You can easily cover the entire dive site without getting lost around the somewhat triangular boulder terrain. Soft corals in all colors and sizes carpet the seascape offering refuge for numerous small reef fish and mollusks. The presence of smaller reef animal attracts larger predators up the food chain. Jacks, barracudas, kingfish,

black tip sharks and nurse sharks are usually sighted.

North of Pulau Susu Dara Besar and Kecil

Facing the open sea front, hard and soft coral communities thrive on the rich nutrients from the sea. Soft corals are not as plentiful as Tokong Laut. However, the diving is interesting with good water clarity and abundant reef fish. Expect to see damselfishes, wrasses, triggerfishes and a moray eel peeping out from its lair. You can dive close to the island and let the current take you along the reefs. The fringing reef gives way to sandy terrain at about 18 metres.

Terumbu Tiga

'Terumbu Tiga' when translated from the Malay language means three coral blocks and is rated to be one of the top dive sites around Pulau Perhentian, together

with Tokong Laut. Situated towards the east of Pulau Perhentian Besar, this dive site is usually washed by currents and makes an interesting drift dive. The boulder terrain slopes down to about 20 metres at the sandy bottom. Visibility fluctuates between 5 to 15 metres depending on the tidal changes. The granite boulders support various soft corals, sea fans and coral whips swaying with the current. Schools of fusiliers, rainbow runners, jacks and batfishes swim about searching for a

feed. Black tip sharks can occasionally be observed at the outer reaches of the reef.

Getting There

You can either travel by road along the scenic coast to Kuala Besut or catch a domestic flight to either Kota Bharu (the capital of Kelantan) or Kuala Terengganu (the capital of Terengganu) and then by taxi or bus to Kuala Besut. Daily ferry departures from the jetty of Kuala Besut to Pulau Perhentian are available, usually from morning to noon.



The Parrotfish (*Scarus psittacus*) feeds on coral polyps and algae.



East Coast
Peninsular Malaysia

PULAU LANG TENGAH TERENGGANU

Pulau Lang Tengah

Translated from Bahasa Malaysia, Pulau Lang Tengah means an eagle resting on the middle island (Pulau Lang Tengah is between Pulau Perhentian and Pulau Redang). This away-from-it-all island has a number of resort operators and is easily accessible from the mainland



Easily recognized by its long antennae, red and white striped body, the banded cleaner shrimp (*Stenopus hispidus*) are generally found in rock crevices.

via a 30 minutes speedboat ride from Merang Jetty.



swim about in the blue water.

Tanjung Nibong Laut

Angular-shaped rock bottoms out at about 25 metres at the sandy seabed. Located at the tip of the island, this site is usually swept by currents that attract pelagic fish life such as barracudas, jacks and if you are lucky, the whale shark. At the coral garden, butterflyfish, wrasses, rabbitfish and turtles can be observed.

Getting There

The closest departure point to Pulau Lang Tengah is from a town called Merang, north of Kuala Terengganu. Speedboat transfer is merely 30 minutes.

Batu Kuching

This site got its name from a squarish boulder perched on top of other boulders that resembles a cat. The boulder terrain plunges down to about 20 metres where sea whips are dominant. Barrel sponges and hard corals form the seascape. Good place to see glass sweepers, wrasses, butterflyfish and snappers.

Terembu Kuning (Yellow Reef)

Located close to the two resorts, Terembu Kuning is a rocky outcrop sloping to the sea bottom at about 20 metres. Hard corals dominate the reef providing refuge for shy groupers, barramundi cods and nurse sharks. While batfish, jacks and fusiliers



A scuba diver cruises over a lionfish (*Pterois volitans*).



The porcupinefish (*Diodon liturosus*) inhabits shallow reef areas.



East Coast
Peninsular Malaysia
PULAU REDANG
TERENGGANU

Pulau Redang

Located about 50 kilometres from Kuala Terengganu and Kuala Besut are the Pulau Redang archipelago of 9 islands, namely Pulau Redang, Pulau Pinang, Pulau

with the sole purpose of conserving the marine resources.

Big Mount

This oval seamount is completely submerged and



Pulau Lima

This interesting site is situated towards the east of Pulau Redang. The western shore is the only coral sand beach providing an excellent area for snorkellers. Comprising of a cluster of 5 islets, diving is best from the southern, the eastern and the northern site.

Generally, the terrain is a steep slope of boulders dropping to about 30 metres. Hard corals, such as table coral, staghorn coral, fire coral and porites dominate the shallower depths. At depths of about 18 metres soft coral colonies, leathery soft corals and mushroom corals abound. You will see a multitude of different reef fish, damselfish, iridescent wrasses, parrotfish, green chromis, as well as black tip reef sharks cruising around. Leaving the boulders and heading towards the sandy seafloor, watch for moray eels lurking in coral blocks, stingrays, lionfish and pufferfish.



Tomato Clownfish (*Amphiprion frenatus*) lives symbiotically with sea anemones, often consisting of a breeding pair.

Ling, Pulau Ekor Tebu, Pulau Kerangga Besar, Pulau Kerangga Kecil, Pulau Paku Kecil, Pulau Paku Besar and Pulau Lima. Waters up to 7 nautical miles surrounding this group of island were gazetted as a marine park in 1985. The Marine Park Centre based on Pulau Pinang manages the many uses and recreational activities surrounding these islands

is located about 50 metres towards the northern tip of Pulau Lima. The shallowest portion of this reef is at about 20 metres and the boulder terrain drops to 30 metres. Rated highly by local divers, this interesting dive site offers the diver an opportunity to observe macro lifeforms to possible encounters with the huge whale shark. Amidst the

soft corals and tunicates, colonies of sea anemone with clownfish, sea cucumbers, starfishes, moray eels, wrasses, squirrelfish, stonefish, groupers and parrotfish, can be encountered. Usually swept



Colourful Soft coral (*Dendronephthya* sp.) growing beside a shipwreck next to the Marine Park Centre jetty in Pulau Pinang off Pulau Redang.

by currents, experienced divers can see a variety of pelagics such as tuna, barracudas, fusiliers and black tip sharks. At about 30 metres there is a garden of whip corals swaying in the current with colourful feather stars clinging on. Towards the sandy bottom where the boulder terrain ends you can expect to find large stingrays camouflaged within the sand.

Mini Mount

This popular submerged reef is situated about 100 metres east of Pulau Kerengga Besar and is marked by a mooring buoy by the Fisheries Department. Granite boulders are scattered around the sandy bottom with the deepest portion at about 20 metres. The faces of the boulders are carpeted with a variety of soft corals (*Dendronephthya species*), tubastrea corals, sea squirts, sponges and stinging hydroids.

Expect to find numerous cowries, spider shells, and large aggregation of colourful christmas tree worms carpeting coral blocks. Damselfish, butterflyfish, chromis, wrasses, rabbitfish, parrotfish and lionfish inhabit the coral garden. The boulder terrain presents itself for exploration; canyons and crevices harbor groupers, moray eels and lobsters.

Mini Mount is a popular choice for night diving. Divers are rewarded with an abundance of night creatures foraging for food around the reef. Plan to dive around 15 metres depth, inspect under the folds of leathery soft corals for cowries with its mantle fully extended, banded shrimps, crabs, sea cucumbers, colourful sea urchins, squids, spiny lobsters and the occasional octopus.

Terumbu Kiri

The southern tip of Pulau Pinang possesses an interesting series of boulders breaking the surface. Outcrops



A view of the Pasir Panjang stretch of beach where most resorts is located.

of tabulated and massive corals are found at shallower depths. The rocky seascape is encrusted with both soft and hard corals at about 15 metres, and slopes down to 20 metres at the sandy bottom. Coral-growth towards the western portion is monospecific, usually of the hard coral genera. The southernmost portion is more interesting with soft corals, whip corals, gorgonians and sponges growing along the step-like slope.



Fusiliers (*Pterocaesio chrysozona*) are active swimmers and feeds on plankton present in the sea.

Fishlife includes cardinal fish, damselfish, chromis, snappers, parrotfish, wrasses and soldierfish. While in the openwater you are likely to encounter jacks, fusiliers, yellowtails, batfish and black tip sharks.

Marine Park Centre

An excellent snorkel and dive

site, the Marine Park Centre incorporates a visitor centre at Pulau Pinang to provide tourists with necessary information.

The friendly wrasses, sergeant majors and breams swarm about snorkellers as these animals are looking for food handouts. Scuba diving around the park vicinity can be interesting, towards the left (from the park centre looking towards the direction of the sea) is a hard coral



Small transparent Glassfish (*Rhabdamia cypselura*) form large groups in crevices and overhangs.

garden with porite mounds carpeted by christmas tree worms observed at depths around 10 to 15 metres. Right below the jetty area is an artificial reef at about 3 to 5 metres with abundant marinelife like, moray eels, hatchetfish, soldierfish, groupers, rabbitfish and squids. Towards the right of

the jetty is a shipwreck, with several steel structures visible from the topside. The stern of the wreck lies in 15 metres of water, sitting upright. Cup corals, tunicates and sponges carpet the exterior hull of the ship. Located close to the channel between Pulau Redang and Pulau Pinang, currents sweep through the wreck, attracting groupers, jacks, black tip sharks and batfish.

Getting There

During the high season from March to October, boats depart either from Kuala Terengganu or Merang. However, the frequency is not regular and prior arrangements would ensure an enjoyable trip.

The shortest kick-off point to Pulau Lang Tengah and Pulau Redang is from Merang located about 38 kilometres north of Kuala Terengganu. Travel time to these islands via speedboat is about 45 minutes. Kuala Terengganu is accessible from most major towns or cities either by road or by air.



East Coast Peninsular Malaysia **PULAU KAPAS** TERENGGANU

Pulau Kapas

Pulau Kapas and Pulau Gemia (located to the north of Pulau Kapas) are merely 20 to 30 minutes by speedboat from the mainland off the coastal town of Marang, 15



An anemone (*Ceriantharia* sp.) extending its polyps to the flow of the water current.



The common clownfish (*Amphiprion ocellaris*) lives in shallow water and is associated with several species of anemone.

kilometres south of Kuala Terengganu. Water visibility varies between 5 to 15 metres at best. The close proximity to the mainland makes Pulau Kapas ideal for

non-diving tourists.

Berakit

This reef is located on the eastern side of Pulau Kapas. Two large boulders with coral growth are home to a number of reef fishes such as damsels, wrasses, blennies and gobies. This is also a good site to observe groupers and if lucky, bamboo sharks can be seen resting under crevices.

Japanese Landing Craft Wreck

About 30 minutes north of Pulau Kapas is a Japanese landing craft wreck lying upright at a depth of 25 metres. Divers descend by the anchor line from the dive boat to reach the wreck. Sections of the metal hull and the anti aircraft guns are carpeted with soft corals and is home to a number of small marine animals.

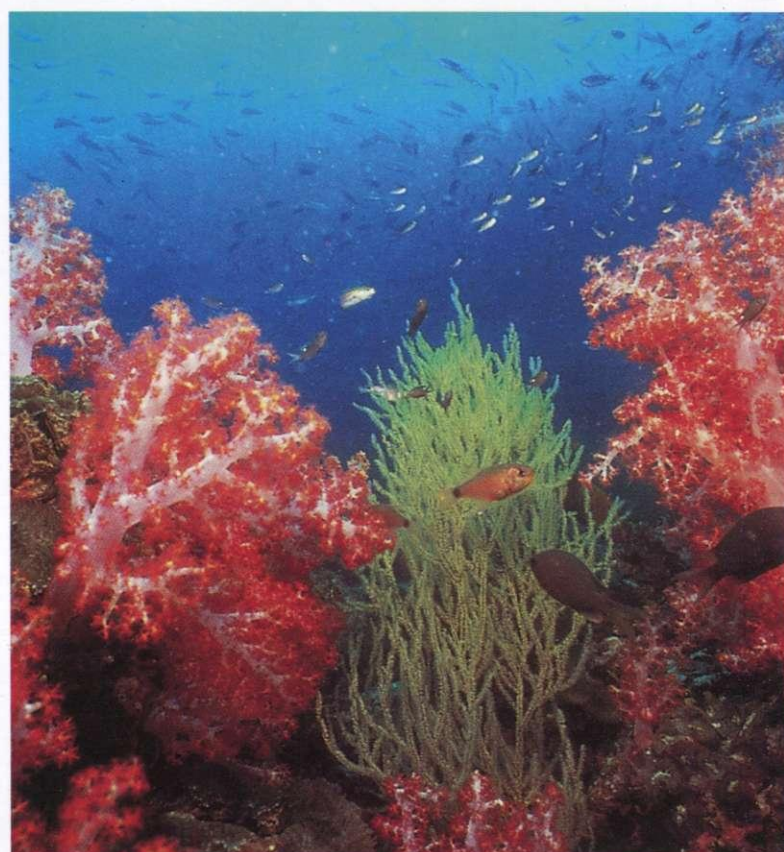
Pulau Gemia

North of Pulau Kapas is Pulau Gemia. The depth profile of the reef around

this island varies between 5 to 16 metres with hard corals carpeting the seascape. Darting about the acropora hard corals gardens are chromis, damsels, wrasses, and parrotfish. Occasionally, a school of bumphead wrasses will graze through the coral rubble foraging for food.

Getting There

Travel south of Kuala Terengganu to the coastal town of Marang. There are daily boat transfers to Kapas Island with a travel time between 20 minutes by speedboat to almost 1 hour by refurbished fishing vessels used for ferrying tourists.



Colourful soft coral (*Dendronephthya* sp.) add a splash of colour to the underwater world.



East Coast Peninsular Malaysia PULAU TENGGOL TERENGGANU



Nudibranchs (*Chromodoris lochi*) are commonly found on the reefs where it feeds on sponges.

Pulau Tenggol

Pulau Tenggol is about one hour by speedboat from Kuala Dungun (a small coastal town 145 kilometres north of Kuantan, Pahang). The waters are among the deepest in east coast Peninsular Malaysia with most dive sites bottoming out at 30 metres. Large rocky outcrops and the boulder-like terrain dominate the seascape.

Pulau Tenggol Bay or Tokong Air Tawar

The well-sheltered bay is excellent for checkout dives and night dives from the shore. Depth gradually increases down the gentle slope to about 20 metres. Hard corals dominate the terrain with sporadic soft corals



The remains of a sunken fishing vessel provides interest of exploration to divers.

adding a touch of colour to the monochromatic seascape. It is also one of the favourite sites to locate a diversity of nudibranchs.

Shy garden eels can be observed towards the right of the bay at about 18 metres depth on the sandy bottom. Lots of chromis, fusiliers and butterflyfish inhabit the coral garden. Nocturnal animals include the spanish



Not commonly found in other islands in Peninsular Malaysia, the snake eel (*Myrichthys maculosus*) can be observed in the sandy bottom in the bay of Pulau Tenggol.

dancer (large nudibranch swimming in midwater), moray eels and crabs.

Batu Tokong Laut

One of the more popular sites for advance divers seeking out schools of fish. Located in the open sea, the boulder-like terrain features interesting swim through tunnels and crevices for divers to explore. Some of the fish sighted include

batfish, fusiliers, jacks and kingfish.

Batu Tokong Kamudi

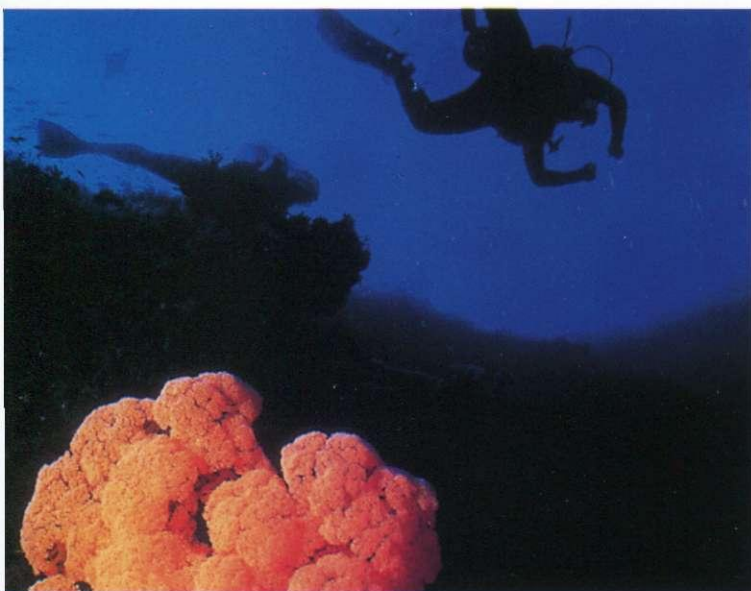
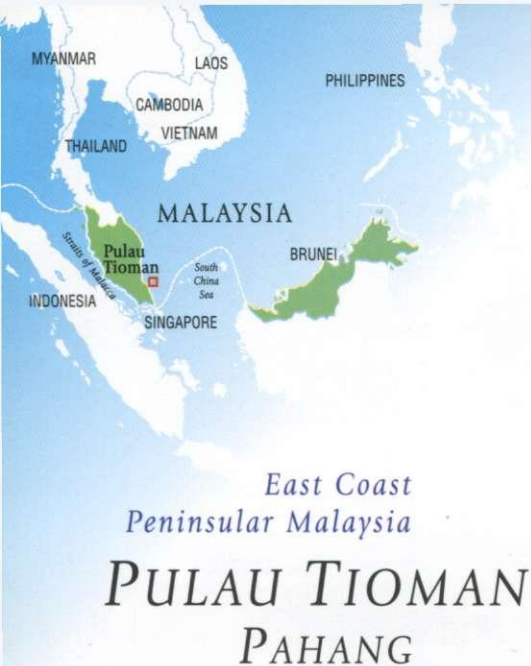
Extending down to slightly more than 30 metres, the seascape has a good mix of hard and soft corals. Christmas tree worms carpet the face of porite mounds. Expect to see lots of sea anemone, nudibranchs, butterflyfish, wrasses, parrotfish and large snappers.

Getting There

There is no regular ferry to the island. You have to contact the local resort operators or any dive centre selling packages to this island. Travel north of Kuantan until you reach Kuala Dungun, the kick off point to the island.



Christmas tree worms (*Spirobranchus* sp.) or bottlebrush worms will retract instantly into their burrows upon any approaching danger.



Pulau Tioman has a number of professional dive centres to cater for technical diving using 'Trimix', 'Nitrox' and 'Re-breathers'.

Pahang

Pahang Marine Park group of islands comprise of Pulau Tioman, Pulau Renggis, Pulau Sepoi, Pulau Labas, Pulau Soyah, Pulau Chebeh, Pulau Tulai, Pulau Sembilang and Pulau Seri Buat.

Largest island of the group is Pulau Tioman, which is inhabited by local fishing villages.

Pulau Tioman

Daily speedboat transfer from Mersing jetty varies

between 1 1/2 to 2 hours to ferry you to Pulau Tioman. Most resort operators are located on the western portion of the island where the sea is calmer and closer to popular diving sites. Currently, this island is the only one with dive operators offering rebreather and technical diving courses.

Northeast Pulau Chebeh

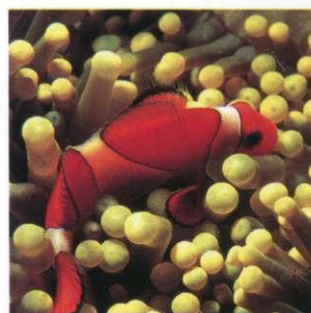
Large boulders slope down to about 25 metres providing divers with interesting exploration through the

many swim-through tunnels. The hard coral terrain is interrupted by numerous soft corals, sea fans and black corals at the deeper end.

Blue spotted stingrays can be seen at the sandy bottom while moray eels, parrotfish, butterflyfish and sweetlips stay close to the corals.

Tiger Rock

Regarded as one of the top dive sites in Pulau Tioman. This submerged reef is worth the dive despite the strong currents. Once you have descended down the



The common clownfish (*Amphiprion Ocellaris*) nestles in the safety of its host anemone.

anchor line of the dive boat to the reef, you will experience slack currents.

Hard and soft corals make

up the seascape. Schools of glass sweepers and cardinal fish seek refuge in crevices while fusiliers, rainbow runners and tunas swim in the blue water.

Seafan Garden Pulau Tulai

As the name suggests, this is an excellent site to see large colourful seafans. Hard corals dominate the shallower reef and as you descend deeper you will come across huge coral blocks carpeted with seafans. In between the crevices and the seafan are glass sweepers darting about as you approach. Good site to observe colourful nudibranchs on the walls of the coral block.

Getting There

Daily speedboat and catamaran transfer from Mersing jetty varies between 1 1/2 to 2 hours to ferry you to Pulau Tioman. There are also daily direct flights from Kuala Lumpur (Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang) to Pulau Tioman.



East Coast Peninsular Malaysia **PULAU AUR** JOHOR

Johor

The Johor Marine Park islands comprise of Pulau Rawa, Pulau Besar, Pulau Hujung, Pulau Tengah, Pulau Tinggi, Pulau Pemanggil, Pulau Sibul, Pulau Aur and Pulau Dayang. The furthest islands - Pulau Dayang and Pulau Aur - offer the most interesting diving of the Johor Marine Park islands. Surrounded by deep waters, the two islands offer an excellent opportunity to encounter pelagics.

Pulau Aur

Located towards the east of Mersing about 65 kilometres from the mainland is Pulau Aur. The long boat journey of about 4 1/2 hours is rather tiresome, and most

operators opt to depart in the late evening, travelling through the night to arrive the next morning on the island. If the seas are rough the boat ride could take a little longer.

Pulau Lang, Pulau Pinang and Pulau Dayang (the largest of the three) surround Pulau Aur. The rich pelagic action also attracts numerous sport fishermen, hoping to try their luck with the marlins or sailfish outside the marine park island.

Rayner's Rock

Towards the northeastern tip about 200 metres of Pulau Dayang is Rayner's Rock, a solitary large boulder breaking the surface at about

4 metres high. Diving is good around the eastern portion with a mixture of both hard and soft corals providing shelter for a profusion of marine life.

Pulau Aur and Pulau Pinang. The top of the reef begins at about 12 metres and slopes in excess of 25 metres. If dived under the right circumstances with slight



The remoteness of Pulau Aur from mainland makes it an ideal away from it all diving holiday.

You can expect to encounter schooling yellowtails, rainbow-runners, trevallies and closer to the reef, groupers, damsels, butterflyfish, scorpionfish and lots of shells.

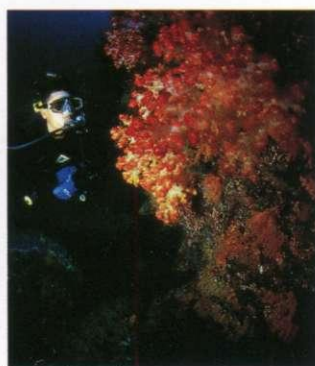
Pinnacles

This submerged reef is located towards the south of

currents, a large number of pelagics including jacks, fusiliers, barracudas and black tip sharks can be sighted. Among the hard corals and scattered soft corals are wrasses, pufferfish, damsels, lionfish, snappers and in between rocky crevices and lobsters.



The emperor angelfish (*Pomacanthus imperator*) is territorial and is often sighted by itself.



Spectacular soft corals carpet the seascape at 'Rayner's Rock'.





Maritime traders gave Sabah the name 'Land Below The Wind' because it lies below the typhoon belt towards the northeastern part of Borneo. Sabah's coastline of 1,440 kilometres consists of beautiful sandy beaches on the west coast, mangrove swamps on the east coast and 38 islands scattered around the state.

East Malaysia

TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PARK ISLANDS SABAH

The South China Sea on the west and the Sulawesi Sea towards the east baths Sabah's coastline. The deep oceanic nature of the Sulawesi Sea brings rich nutrients and water clarity.

Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park

Named after Malaysia's first Prime Minister who was instrumental in the merger of Sabah with Malaysia, Tunku Abdul Rahman Park is located merely 15 minutes from Kota Kinabalu. The park headquarters located on Pulau Manukan oversees Pulau Gaya, Pulau Sapi, Pulau Mamutik and Pulau Sulug. Of the five islands, Pulau Gaya is the most

developed with floating villages. Connected by a sand bar from Pulau Gaya is Pulau Sapi, an ideal snorkelling and diving site.



Pulau Manukan, the second largest island of the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park group of islands is the site of the Park headquarters.

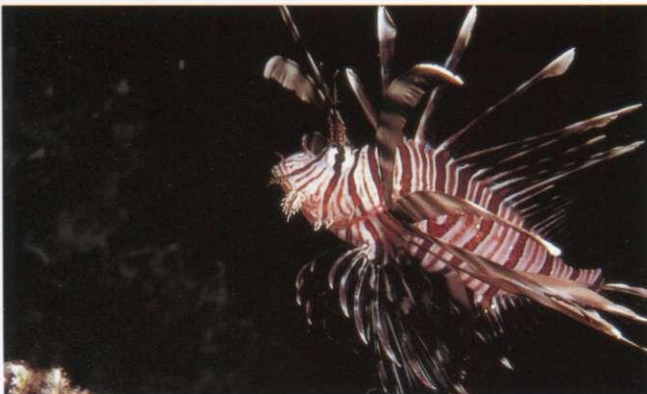
The largest of the islands is Pulau Gaya, with its rich flora and fauna, sea eagles and reptiles. Beautiful white

sandy beaches encompass the shoreline. The most popular beach is at Bulljong Bay, popularly known as "Police Beach". Regular boat and ferry services from mainland make the islands an attractive tourist destination.

Diving

The convenience of a mere 15 minutes boat ride to the dive sites around the Tunku Abdul Rahman National

Park Islands makes excellent day trip dives. Much of the diving in the area is a gentle slope with hard coral gardens, sandy bottom and sporadic coral blocks. Several colourful species of nudibranchs, damsels, fusiliers and occasional visits of the whale shark spice up the dives. Encounters with pelagics are infrequent and are usually around submerged reefs.



Although interesting to look at, divers should beware of venomous spines protecting the lionfish (*Pterois Volitans*).



The white sandy beach and shallow reefs of Pulau Sapi is a popular site for snorkellers and picnickers.

Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park islands are ideal for observing macro marine life either in the day or night. Night diving is usually pretty interesting, revealing some mollusks, echinoderms and crustaceans. The shallow, calm sea with depths varying between 15 to 20 metres makes it ideal for novices and scuba training.

Police Bay

Known as Police Bay or Bulijong Bay, this popular dive site is located towards the north of Pulau Gaya. A beautiful white sandy beach provides an excellent spot to relax after the dives around the bay. Staghorn

corals are predominant at depths from 10 to 20 metres and the terrain gradually slopes to a sandy bottom. Densely populated with small reef fishes, wrasses, nudibranchs and stingrays and if you are lucky, you may spot the odd lobster scavenging for food on the sandy terrain.

Clement Reef

Towards the southwestern portion of Pulau Gaya near Pulau Sapi is Clement Reef, named after Clement Lee of Borneo Divers who first dived this site. Large table corals, staghorn corals, brain corals and encrusting sponges dominate the reef. Invertebrates often observed

are nudibranchs, starfish, cuttlefish and sea cucumbers, plus a mix of colourful tropical fish like damselfish, wrasses, squirrelfish and pufferfish.

Mild currents sweep the reef, but is usually manageable for both novice and advance divers to enjoy diving in this area.

Mid Reef

Popular with most dive operators, mid reef is situated east of Pulau Manukan. The excellent coral reef makes it an ideal spot for snorkelling and scuba diving.

Mid Reef as the name suggests, is a submerged reef detached from the island. Several species of hard coral and encrusting sponges make up the reef topography. A feature of this site is the numerous patches of anemones and coral fish. You are likely to see lots of moray eels, stonefish, all sorts of crustaceans plus the cute Panda Clownfish (*Amphiprion sp.*) darting in and

out of its host anemone. Towards the end of the year when the sea is rich with plankton, the world's largest fish, the giant whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), cruises by to feed on the plankton.

Getting There

Sabah is served by several international airlines with direct flights from Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila, Brunei, Seoul, Taipei and Tokyo. It is also accessible worldwide via Kuala Lumpur with Malaysia Airlines and through Singapore via Singapore Airlines. Flights to major towns in Borneo like Kuching and Miri are also served by Malaysia Airlines.



The colouration and numerous growths on the body of the scorpionfish (*Scorpaenopsis sp.*) camouflages the fish among the corals.



Blennies (*Blennius* family) are shy tiny fish and will dart into the nearest hole upon any sign of danger.



East Malaysia PULAU LANKAYAN SABAH

Pulau Lankayan

Located in the Sulu Sea about 1 1/2 hour from

mainland Sandakan by speedboat. Pulau Lankayan promises interesting holiday

destination with white sandy beaches, jungle interior and interesting diving are a sure

combination to attract the diver and non-diver.



Sitting atop coral heads, the ring-eyed hawkfish (*Paracirrhites arcatus*) awaits unsuspecting prey.



The most common stingray in the coral reef, the blue spotted stingray (*Taeniura lymma*).

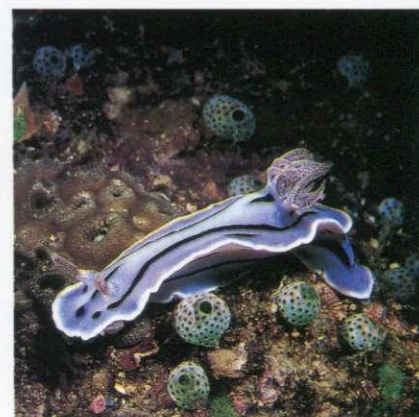
Some of the marine animals observed around the 14 dive sites include black tip sharks, jacks, barracudas, bumphead parrotfish, lionfish, moray eels, turtles, nudibranchs, gobies and the ghost pipe fish.

Getting There

Guests will have to catch the morning flight from Kota Kinabalu to Sandakan. Speedboat transfer is from the Sandakan Yacht Club to Pulau Lankayan in 1 1/2 hour.



Hinge-beak shrimps (*Rhynchocinetes durbanensis*) are usually nocturnal, hence the best time to spot them would be during a night dive.



Nudibranch (*Chromodoris lochi*) or snail without a shell.



East Malaysia

PULAU MABUL and KAPALAI SABAH



Pulau Mabul & Kapalai

Located about 30 minutes from mainland Semporna, Pulau Mabul has a shallow reef profile with sandy bottom and patches of sea grass. The coral reefs at first glance do not look very picturesque and inviting. However, it is the diversity of macro animals inhabiting the coral rubble and sea grass sites that put Pulau Mabul and Kapalai on the diving map.

Eel Garden

Located towards the southern end of Pulau Mabul, Eel Garden is one of the deeper dives around the area. Divers descend to a sandy flat between 20 to 25 metres sloping towards the open sea.

Finning carefully and avoiding stirring up the silty bottom, divers can observe gobies seeking refuge in the tiny crevices and moray eels occupying larger holes. Looking towards the sandy patch, you will see what

appears to be blades of long grass swaying with the current. These are the elusive garden eels (*Heteroconger Hassi*) living in colonies, that quickly dart back into their burrows on approaching shadows or excessive movement in the water.

Ray Point

Also located on the southern tip of Pulau Mabul, this site slopes to about 30 metres at the sandy bottom. Currents sweeping through this point bring clear water and good visibility. Sea fans and soft corals that thrive in current areas are home to gobies, blennies, moray eels, butterflyfish, damselfish, parrotfish and stonefish (*Synanceia Verrucosa*).

Mandarin Valley

This site is located on the northern tip of Pulau Kapalai. Pulau Kapalai is only a sandbank with a resort built on stilts over the island. The depth of this site ranges from 15 to 20 metres, sloping



Juvenile catfish (*Plotosus lineatus*) congregate and feed at the sandy bottom.



Spiny lobsters (*Panulirus versicolor*) are commonly seen foraging for food during the night.



The sites around Mabul and Kapalai are renown for strange macro creatures such as the ghost pipefish (*Solenostomus paradoxus*) which is a relative of the sea horse and pipefish.

to a sandy bottom. Divers can observe stonefish, frogfish, gobies, leaf fish, ghost pipe fish, nudibranchs and mandarin fish (*Synchiropus Splendidus*).

Getting There

Pulau Mabul and Pulau

Kapalai can be reached by flight from the state capital, Kota Kinabalu, then a connecting flight to Tawau, followed by a 2 1/2 hour drive to Semporna and finally a 30 minutes fast catamaran boat transfer to the island.



This tropical duty-free island with an area of 92 sq. kilometres has beautiful sandy beaches with international class hotels and a golf course. The numerous activities available on the island will keep the divers occupied after their dives.

During the early years, Labuan experienced battles between the Allied and the Japanese Force, resulting in several war wrecks. Two of the World War II wrecks here are the American Wreck and the Australian Wreck. Other wrecks include Cement Wreck and Blue Water Wreck, both from the 1980s.

East Malaysia

PULAU LABUAN LABUAN



Sunflower corals (*Tubastrea* sp.) grow in clumps around the structure of the wrecks.



A close relative of those who perished in the world war two shipwreck lays a wreath as remembrance.

Diving

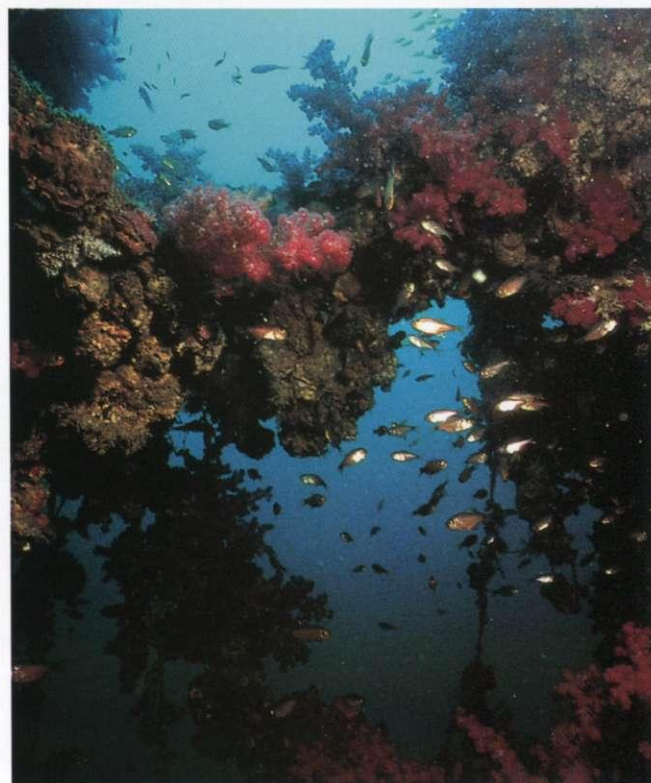
The types of diving skill required on these wrecks are rated from novice to experience wreck diving, with penetration into the hulls. Professional dive operators cater for daily dive trips, as well as from Openwater to Wreck Diving Specialty courses. Visitors may also take advantage of duty-free purchases for dive equipment from the dive centres in Labuan.

The Cement Wreck can be dived by novices but the Blue Water Wreck requires Advanced Divers or with logged experience. To penetrate into the two mentioned wrecks or to dive the American or Australian Wreck, you must be certified in wreck diving or have previously logged experience in wreck diving.

Cement Wreck

Situated about 21 kilometres from Labuan, east of Kuraman Island, is a 105 metres modern style freighter. It is said that the freighter MV Tung Hwa was ferrying a load of cement for the Brunei Sultanate but enroute, she struck Samarany Bank and sank behind Kuraman Island.

The ship sits perfectly upright on the bottom at about 30 metres. Her masts stand at 8 metres, the roof of the wheelhouse at 14 metres and the main deck at 19 metres. The position of the wreck makes it ideal for novice divers and wreck diving training.



The deck of the Cement Wreck are carpeted with soft corals and marine lifeforms.

Experienced divemasters would either descend to tie a line or would drop a rope weighted with molded lead as opposed to an anchor to prevent damage to corals

and the wreck. Schools of baitfish congregating in huge groups greet divers as they descend the masts of the ship. As your eyes adjust to the low light, the wreck

reveals a profusion of coral and marine life. Soft corals in all shapes and colors lance with the currents. Small marine animals observed around the wreck include hawkfish, pipefish, damselfish, gobies, cardinal fish; the list is endless. The rich diversity of coral life also attracts bigger animals either to feed or to look for a cleaning

World War II. Located about 1.5 kilometres from the American Wreck, this ship is actually a Dutch merchant ship captured by the Japanese then fitted with weapons and utilized as a cargo vessel, but spotted and sank by Australian aircraft in 1945. A maker's plate identified the freighter as built in Rotterdam in 1900.

was once a lifeless wreck to rich coral growth with an abundance of marine life. The superstructure is covered with black coral tress, sea whips and stinging hydroids. A particular feature of the wreck is the presence of resident palm-sized frogfish or anglerfish. Large groupers can be seen swimming about looking for an easy feed among the profusion of marine life. Divers are forewarned where to place their hands as many stonefish and lionfish lie camouflaged around the wreck.

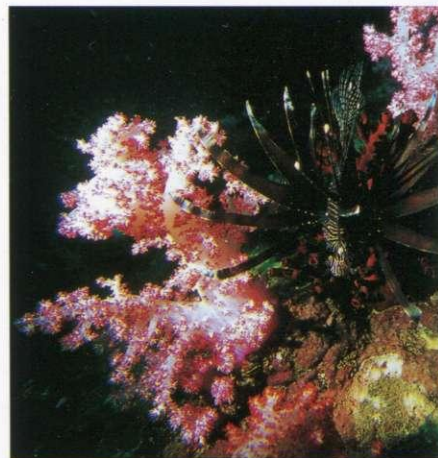
American Wreck

The American Wreck, identified as the USS Solute (a minesweeper), lies some 24 kilometres from Labuan, southwest of the small island of Rusukan Besar on the Barat Banks.

During the Allied pre-invasion of the Brunei Bay, while carrying out a routine mine sweep, the minesweeper struck a mine midship. She buckled when she sank, with the bow portion folding back over on top of the stern section. The wreck lies at 33 metres on the sandy bottom with tangled masses of metal and cable. Diving this wreck requires an experienced diver or a wreck diver to carefully explore the tangled mass.

A feature of the wreck is the many fish-cleaning stations, crustaceans and echinoderms. The presence of spiny black urchins requires caution on the buoyancy of the diver when venturing

close to the wreck. Depth chargers, ammunition shells, shoes culinary and wire bottles can be still found scattered around the wreckage, amidst mangled metal and cables. A resident school of spotted sweetlips lie as silent sentinels of the wreck.



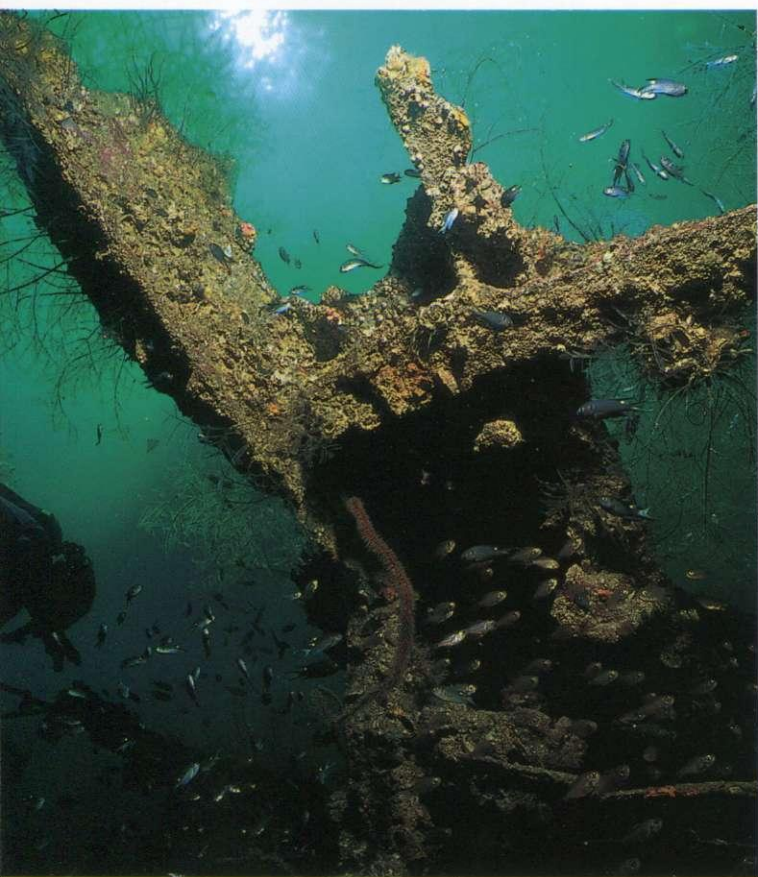
There is some interesting diving around the reefs of Pulau Kuraman.

Getting There

Labuan Island is serviced by domestic air flights from Kuala Lumpur or Kota Kinabalu. There are numerous international flight connections from either Kuala Lumpur or Kota Kinabalu.

Best Time To Dive

Best months for diving is between March to October. Visibility fluctuates with tidal changes but adds to the drama of wreck diving. Little or no current are experienced at the wreck proper but could be stronger outside the parameter of the wreck. All dives are via anchor line with spare tanks provided at decompression stops. As wreck diving can be dangerous, always enquire about safety equipment provided by the operators, especially for decompression stops.



The structure of the American Shipwreck is broken into small chunks scattered on the seabed.

station. The outer parameter of the wreck is patrolled by schools of fusiliers, batfish, barracudas and rainbow runners. This wreck offers the avid diver the most photogenic opportunity of all the wrecks.

Australian Wreck

This is not an Australian ship, but was nicknamed so by the locals from the fact that was sunk by Australian aircraft during

Lying on her portside, the wreck is about 23 kilometres from Labuan, southeast of the small islands of Rusukan Besar on the Barat Banks. This vessel is a riveted hull freighter with a wooden deck that has already deteriorated. She is approximately 100 metres long and lies at 33 metres on the sandy bottom, with the shallowest depth at 21 metres.

Nature has transformed what



East Malaysia

PULAU LAYANG LAYANG SABAH

Layang Layang Island

Layang Layang when translated means 'Swallow's Reef' (although there are no swallows present) is fast becoming another of Malaysia's premier dive destination after the world-famous Sipadan Island. This oceanic atoll is situated in the South China Sea about 300 kilometres north west of Kota Kinabalu, the capital

surface during low tides, but most begin at depths of about 5 metres and the wall plunges to about 2000 metres to the ocean floor. The deep-water attracts numerous pelagics and offers some exciting encounters off the wall.

Gorgonian Forest

Most dive sites around Layang Layang follow a



Comfortable and spacious dive boats takes divers to the various diving sites around the island.

of Sabah. The little land mass supports a luxurious 90-room dive resort, a Malaysian Naval base and a nesting colony for several sea-faring migratory birds.

The reef topography is essentially made up of a rich growth of hard corals; some are shallow that they break



Hard corals dominate the seascape around Pulau Layang Layang.

similar dive profile with the reef top starting at 5 to 10 metres and sloping steeply down. Gorgonian Forest, as the name suggests, is a virtual forest of fabulous sea fans swaying with the currents along the slopes from about 15 metres down to 40 metres. Bushes of black coral and whip corals



Moorish Idols (*Zanclus cornutus*) foraging for food on the reef top.



The lagoon in Pulau Layang Layang is about seven kilometres long.

share the seascape with small marine reef fishes.

The stillness of the dive site is interrupted by the presence of scalloped hammerhead sharks, either solitary, swimming close to the reef or in a school, cruising off the wall in the open water usually against the flow of the currents. It is a magnificent sight to behold, their heads swaying from side to side unlike any other shark, swimming in formation. An advice to underwater photographers: These animals are easily spooked, especially if you utilise a flash. They are best photographed with available light, capturing their silhouette shapes in the blue water.



A luxurious resort with swimming pool facility out in the middle of the South China Sea.

'D' Wall

This is an interesting wall dive, with the reef top starting at about 5 metres and plunging down rather steeply at an inverted angle, cutting off the sunlight. Visibility is usually better than most sites around and is about 40-plus metres. Coral life on the face of the wall is quite spartan, probably from the nature of the steep wall. Several black coral bushes, colourful dendronephthya



The nutrient rich deep waters (about two thousand metres deep) attracts a number of fishes.

soft corals, sponges and clusters of tunicates carpet the wall. The coral garden is populated with small reef fishes darting about, red coral trout and several big emperor angels. Big moray eels make their home in several crevices on the wall, playing hide and seek with divers, popping in and out of the lair. In the openwater, schools of surgeonfish, fusiliers, jacks and sometimes manta rays cruise by. Large schools of Pennant Butterfly fish also can be seen hovering around the coral garden, probably seeking out food. White tip reef sharks are frequently sighted, and after a while you stop noticing them. The reef top is quite interesting with abundant marine creatures foraging for food among the hard coral formations, keeping the diver occupied during his safety stop.

Dog Tooth Lair

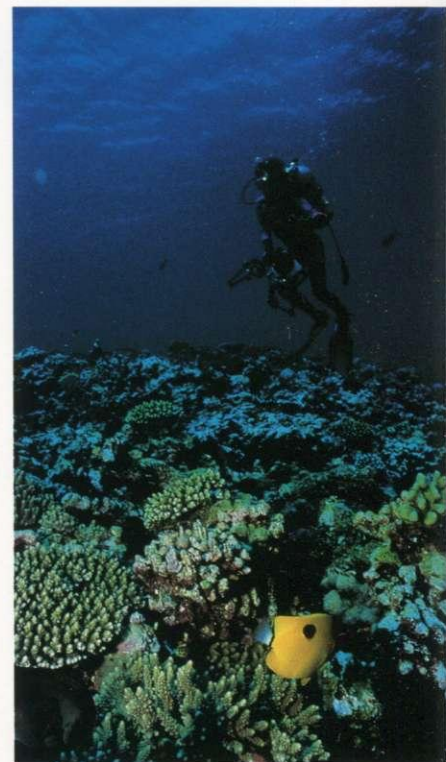
Located just minutes from the resort, Dogtooth Lair probably got its name from

the numerous sightings of these tunas encountered during dives. The reef topography starts at about 8 metres and slopes down into the depths. Passing schools of barracudas can be seen at the shallows along with fusiliers and surgeonfish. The wall is typical of those around Layang Layang, featuring steep walls of corals, interspaced with small ledges. There is also a popular site to encounter the schooling hammerheads swimming against the current. Dogtooth Lair can sometimes experience fierce currents due to its location at the corner of the atoll. However, currents bring rich nutrients and attract a chain of predators.

Valley

An easy dive located at the western tip of Pulau Layang Layang is a gentle slope beginning at about 10 metres and slopes to about 20 metres. This site features excellent hard coral growth with small reef fishes

inhabiting the coral garden. You will find countless fish ranging from tiny gobies, blennies and wrasses to reef sharks. Numerous nooks and crevices provide a hideaway for invertebrates like crabs, shrimps and also fishes such as red coral trout and other snappers. Also look out to the sandy patches - you might see the occasional leopard shark resting on the sandy bed.



The waters surrounding Pulau Layang Layang offers excellent visibility from twenty to about fifty metres, depending on the months.

Getting There

The nearest kickoff point to Pulau Layang Layang is from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Where direct flights are available from Tokyo, Taipei, Kaohsiung, Seoul, Hong Kong, Manila, Cebu, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

From Kota Kinabalu a private charter company flies clients to Layang Layang, arranged by Layang Layang Island Resort.



East Malaysia

PULAU TALANG-TALANG SARAWAK

Sarawak

Renown for her natural eco-trails and tribal culture, Sarawak also has some diving sites. Pulau Talang Talang lying off the mouth of Sematan River is a protected turtle sanctuary and permission must be obtained to dive the area. The green, hawksbill and olive ridley turtles are commonly sighted in the vicinity.



A Rockcod (*Epinephelus Carruleo Punctatus*).

A World War II ship wreck Katori Maru, located about 30 nautical miles from the mainland, was a Japanese troop carrier sunk by British aircraft. Being located further off the coast, water visibility is between 5 to 8 metres. The poor

light penetration has resulted in little coral growth on the ship but it has managed to attract a number of large fish inhabitants and in particular, reef sharks. Locating the wreck is no easy task - it usually takes the local divemaster several minutes of cruising before locating the wreck.



Anemone with tentacles fully extended.



The lionfish (*Scorpaenidae Sp.*) is commonly sighted on lagoon reefs and around deepwater coral heads.

DO'S & DONT'S

Observing Proper Reef Etiquette

Coral reefs are home to many beautiful, fascinating creatures. Snorkelling or diving is a great way to explore this spectacular undersea world but must be done carefully as reefs are very fragile and easily damaged.

Avoid Touching The Coral

A single kick can break coral and destroy years of growth. Even a light touch can rub off the coral's protective mucus covering, leaving it vulnerable to infection and disease.

- Never stand on coral.
- Ensure that your body and fins do not touch the reef.
- Avoid finning close to the sea bed as this kicks up silt that can smother the coral.
- Scuba divers should maintain neutral buoyancy and secure gauges/octopus rigs so that they do not drag on the reef.

Avoid Harassing Reef Life

Reef animals are easily stressed and harassing them can disrupt feeding or mating.

Avoid Collecting Souvenirs

Even dead coral plays an important role in the reef ecosystem and should not be taken.

Avoid Littering

Litter endangers marine life and spoils the reef's natural beauty. Throw litter in a bin or take it back with you.

Avoid Anchoring on the Reef

Anchors smash coral, damaging large areas of the reef.

Ensure that your boat uses a mooring buoy instead.

Try to learn as much as you can about coral reefs and their inhabitants. Tell others about the fragility and value of coral reefs. Let's all be responsible for conserving our coral reefs.



Climate & Water

Temperature

Malaysia has an equatorial climate with fairly uniform temperatures ranging from 32 Celcius during the day to 22 Celcius at night. Humidity is about 85 to 95 per cent.

Water temperature is 27 - 28 Celsius and during the dry months the temperature may rise to 30 - 31 Celsius.

Divers will not require thick wet suits. Anything between 1.5 to 3 millimetre wet suit is fine.

Best Time to Dive

West coast Peninsular Malaysia

- December - May

East coast Peninsular Malaysia

- March - October

The islands of east Malaysia are reasonably well protected and are diveable all year round. However, water visibility is better during the months of April to August.

Dive Equipment Rental

Dive equipment is readily available for rent at almost all dive centres. But it would be wise to give prior notice



The cement wreck transformed into a coral garden of life.

to the operators, as sizes could be limited.

Diving Association

MALAYSIAN SPORT DIVING ASSOCIATION

40 Jalan SG 2/3

Taman Sri Gombak,

68100 Batu Caves,

Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

E-mail: msda@tm.net.my

Website: www.msda.com.my

Diving Emergency

Evacuation is not included unless covered by insurance. The following are contacts for recompression chambers in Malaysia:

- Labuan Naval Base
Tel: 087-412 122
- Lumut Naval Base
Tel: 605-683 7090



View of Pulau Lima, part of Pulau Redang group of islands.

- Kuantan Naval Base
Tel: 609-513 3333
- Sipadan Island, Borneo Divers and Sea Sports (Sabah) Sdn. Bhd.
Tel: 011-811 435

Diving insurance for emergency point-to-point evacuation and personal accident cover while in Malaysia is available through most dive centres.

Electricity

Electricity is 220 volts at 50 cycles, although most first class hotels can supply an adaptor for 110 volts, 60 cycles appliances. Plugs are of the British three rectangular prong type. Most island resorts are powered by 24-hour generators or have an electrical supply from mainland.

Time Zone

Malaysia is about 8 hours ahead of GMT

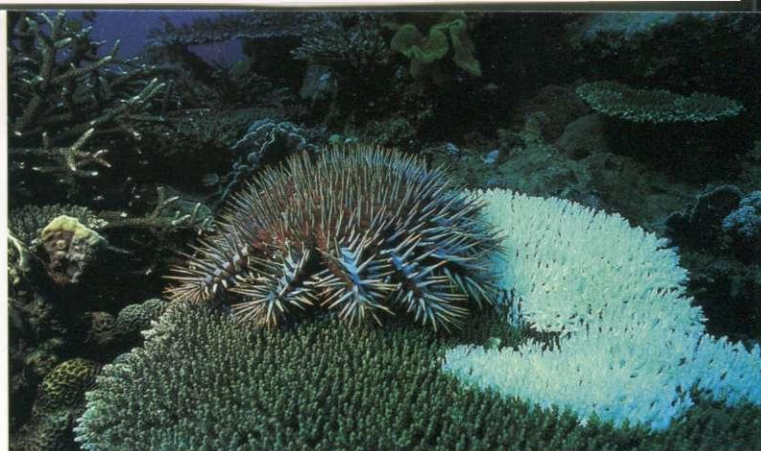
Credit Cards

Most major credit cards

and travelers cheques are accepted such as Mastercard, Visa and Amex. For payment by other cards please check with the respective resorts in advance.

Clothing

Very casual, light cotton clothing like t-shirts, shorts etc. is the order of the day. No formality is expected in the restaurants. Tourists are recommended to cover themselves when visiting villages and town. Nudity is prohibited.



The Crown-of-Thorns (*Acanthaster planci*) is notorious for feeding on hard coral polyps.

Conservation

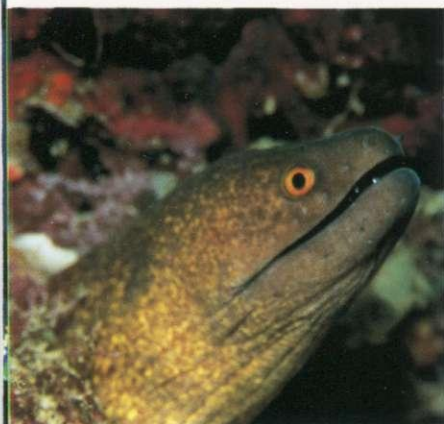
The coral reefs are constantly under threat from global changes and they must be conserved. This has led to the establishment of numerous marine protected areas around Malaysia.

These marine protected areas will also encourage public understanding and awareness of the marine environment. The Malaysian government has initiated efforts to manage these areas so that the usage of the reefs is sustainable.

Within Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territory of Labuan, the waters surrounding 38 islands

that are grouped into 5 Marine Parks are now protected and managed by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia. While in East Malaysia, Sabah's land and sea areas are protected around Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Pulau Tiga and Turtle Islands Park by Sabah Parks.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES MALAYSIA
Ministry of Agriculture
Tingkat 8 & 9, Wisma Tani
Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
50628 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 603-2695 4590
Fax: 603-2691 3199
E-mail: mpark@dof.moa.my
Website: www.agrolink.moa.my/dof



Although perceived to be aggressive, Moray eels are usually docile.



The common clownfish feeds an algae and plankton.

REEF FISHES OF MALAYSIA

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
BARRACUDA	<i>Sphyrna Putnamiae</i>	HATCHET FISH	<i>Pempheris Oulensis</i>
BARRAMUNDI COD	<i>Cromileptes Altivelis</i>	JACKS	<i>Caranx Sexfasciatus</i>
BATFISH	<i>Platax Tiera</i>	LEAF FISH	<i>Taenianotus Triacanthus</i>
BLACK TIP REEF SHARK	<i>Carcharhinus Melanopterus</i>	LEOPARD SHARK	<i>Stegostoma Fasciatum</i>
BLenny	<i>Nemateleotris Magnifica</i>	LIONFISH	<i>Pterois Volitans</i>
BOXFISH	<i>Ostracion Cubicus</i>	NURSE SHARK	<i>Nebrius Ferrugineus</i>
BUMPHEAD WRASSE	<i>Bolbometapon Muricatus</i>	MANTA RAY	<i>Manta Birotris</i>
BUTTERFLYFISH	<i>Chaetodontidae</i>	MORAY EEL	<i>Gymnothorax Javanicus</i>
CHROMIS	<i>Chromis Ternatensis</i>	PARROTFISH	<i>Scarus Gibbus</i>
CLOWNFISH	<i>Amphiprion Ocellaris</i>	PENNANT BUTTERFLYFISH	<i>Heniochus Diphreutes</i>
DAMSEL	<i>Dascyllus Trimaculatus</i>	PUFFERFISH	<i>Arothron Nigropunctatus</i>
EMPEROR ANGEL	<i>Pomacanthus Imperator</i>	RABBITFISH	<i>Siganus sp.</i>
FLASHLIGHT FISH	<i>Photoblepharon Palpebratus</i>	RED CORAL TROUT	<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>
FROGFISH	<i>Antennarius Moluccensis</i>	SURGEONFISH	<i>Acanthurus Leucosternon</i>
FUSILIERS	<i>Caesio Xanthonota</i>	SWEETLIPS	<i>Plectorhynchus Chaetodonoides</i>
GHOST PIPEFISH	<i>Solenostomus Cyanopterus</i>	TRIGGERFISH	<i>Pseudobalistes Flavimarginatus</i>
GLASS SWEEPERS	<i>Rhabdamia Cypselura</i>	STINGRAY	<i>Taeniura Lymma</i>
GOBI	<i>Helcogramma Striata</i>	WRASSES	<i>Thalassoma Lunare</i>
GROUPEr	<i>Epinephelus Microdon</i>	YELLOWTAIL	<i>Caesio Xanthonotus</i>
HAMMERHEAD SHARK	<i>Sphyrna Lewini</i>	GREEN TURTLE	<i>Chelonia Mydas</i>



Listing of DIVE and RESORT OPERATORS

PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

West Coast

Langkawi ASIAN OVERLAND SERVICES TOURS & TRAVEL

Lot 1 & 2, Lobby Floor,
Langkawi Holiday Villa,
07000 Pulau Langkawi,
Kedah, Malaysia
Tel : 604-955 2002
Fax : 604-955 1411
E-mail : aoslgk@po.jaring.my
Website: aostt.com
*Speciality: Diving packages to
Pulau Payar*

LANGKAWI SAGA TRAVEL AND TOURS SDN. BHD.

10, Taman Sri Negeri,
Jalan Penarek, Kuah,
07000 Langkawi, Malaysia
Tel : 604-966 9140
Fax : 604-966 9139
E-mail : lgkcoral@pd.jaring.my
Website: www.langkawicoral.com
*Speciality: Diving packages to
Pulau Payar*

East Coast

Peninsular Malaysia - Kuala Lumpur BORNEO DIVERS AND SEA SPORTS (KL) SDN. BHD.

No.115M, Jalan SS21/37,
Damansara Utama,
47400 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor, Malaysia
Tel : 603-7727 3066

Fax : 603-7728 4303
E-Mail : bdsskl@po.jaring.my
Website: http://www.
borneodiverskl.com

*Speciality: Diving, Adventure and
wildlife packages around Malaysia,
PADI Centre, Scuba & Photo
Equipment sales*

GEM TRAVEL & TOURS SDN. BHD.

37, Jalan 2/71,
Taman Tun Dr. Ismail
60000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel : 603-7727 9287
Fax : 603-7727 9269
Speciality: Diving packages

KEMBARA STATION SDN. BHD.

201B, Blok A,
Kelana Centre Point,
Jalan SS7/19, 47301 Petaling Jaya
Tel : 603-706 4752
Fax : 603-706 4753
E-mail : enquiries@
kembarastation.com
Website: www.
kembarastation.com
*Speciality: PADI centre and Diving
packages to Pulau Perhentian*

LAYANG LAYANG ISLAND RESORT SDN. BHD.

Letter Box No.12,
Block A Unit A-O-3,
Megan Phileo Avenue,
12, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng,
50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel : 603-2162 2877
Fax : 603-2162 2980
E-mail : layang@pop.jaring.my
*Speciality: Diving packages to
Pulau Layang Layang*

SEA DIVERS SDN. BHD.

No.18, Jalan Utara,
off Jalan Imbi,
55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel : 603-2141 5201
Fax : 603-2141 5202
E-mail : mike@seadvr.po.
jaring.my

*Speciality: Diving packages to
Pulau Redang, NAUI Centre,
Scuba Equipment sales*

Terengganu REDANG BAY RESORT SDN. BHD.

No.139, Jalan Bandar,
20100 Kuala Terengganu
Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel : 609-620 3200
Fax : 609-624 2048
E-mail : redangbay@malaysia.
crosswinds.net
Website: www.redangbay.com.my
*Speciality: Diving packages to
Pulau Redang*

REDANG KALONG RESORT TRAVEL & TOURS SDN. BHD.

No.87, Jalan Bandar,
20100 Kuala Terengganu,
Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel : 609-622 1591
Fax : 609-622 8186

E-mail : redangkalong@
yahoo.com
Website: www.redangkalong.com
*Speciality: Diving packages to
Pulau Redang*

REDANG REEF RESORT TRAVEL & TOURS SDN. BHD.

181, Jalan Bandar,
20100 Kuala Terengganu,
Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel : 609-622 6181
Fax : 609-622 4181
*Speciality: Diving packages to
Pulau Redang*

REDANG AQUATIC ADVENTURE SDN. BHD.

147, Jalan Bandar,
20000 Kuala Terengganu,
Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel : 609-623 8118
Fax : 609-623 0225
*Speciality: PADI centre and Diving
packages to Pulau Redang*

REDANG PELANGI RESORT SDN. BHD.

No.2A, Jalan Syed Hussein
20100 Kuala Terengganu
Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel : 609-624 2158
Fax : 609-623 5208
E-mail : snkho@jaring.my
Website: www.redangpelangi.
jaring.my
*Speciality: Diving packages to
Pulau Redang*

SABAH & SARAWAK

Sabah

ABDILLAH SIPADAN PARADISE SDN. BHD.

c/o Adventure Journeyworld,
Travel (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd.
Ground Floor, Lot 5, Block A,
Taman Fortuna Shoplots,
Jalan Penampang,
P.O. Box 60865, 910018 Tawau,
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-088-221 586
Fax : 6-088-248 331
E-mail : jworld@po.jaring.my
Website: http://www.borneo.
org/ajwt
*Speciality: Diving packages to
Pulau Sipadan*

BORNEO DIVERS AND SEA SPORTS (SABAH) SDN. BHD

9th. Floor Menara Jubli,
No.53, Jalan Gaya,
88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
Tel : 6-088-222 226
Fax : 6-088- 221 550
E-mail : bdivers@po.jaring.my
Website: http://www.jaring.my/
bdivers

*Speciality: PADI Dive Centre, Scuba
equipment sales, Diving packages to
Pulau Mamutik (Tunku Abdul
Rahman Park), Pulau Labuan and
Pulau Sipadan*

BORNEO SEA ADVENTURE SDN. BHD.

1st. Floor, No.8A,
Karamunsing Warehouse,
P.O. Box 10134,
88801 Kota Kinabalu
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-088-230 000
Fax : 6-088-221 106
E-mail : bornsea@pop1.
jaring.my

Website: <http://www.bornsea.com>

Speciality: Diving packages to Pulau Sipadan and Pulau Mantanani

CORAL ISLAND CRUISES TOURS & TRAVEL SDN. BHD.

A10-02, 10th. Floor,
Wisma Merdeka,
Jalan Tun Razak,
P.O. Box 14527,
88851 Kota Kinabalu
Tel : 6-088-223 490
Fax : 6-088-223 404
E-mail : miaovo@pc.jaring.my
Website: <http://www.coral-island-cruises.com>

Speciality: Wildlife, nature tours,
Diving & water sports in Sabah

EXPLORE ASIA TOURS SDN. BHD.

(formerly known as Sipadan-Mabul Regal Tours Sdn. Bhd)
2nd. Floor, Lot 8, Block B,
Jalan Padas, Segama Complex
88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
Tel : 6-088-230 006/7
Fax : 6-088-242 003
E-mail : mabul@po.jaring.my
Website: <http://www.sipadan-mabul.com>

Speciality: Diving packages to Pulau Mabul, Live-aboard diving, PADI Centre

GAYANA ISLAND ECO RESORT

Lot G16, Ground Floor,
Wisma Sabah
88000 Kota Kinabalu
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-088- 245 158
Fax : 6-088-264 460
E-mail : info@gayana-ecoresort.com
Website: <http://www.gayana-ecoresort.com>

Speciality: Diving packages to Gaya island

LAYANG LAYANG ISLAND RESORT SDN. BHD.

Lot 29, Level 1
(Lower concourse);
Kota Kinabalu
International Airport,
88740 Kota Kinabalu
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-088-257 893
Fax : 6-088-257 983
E-mail : llir@tm.net.my
Website: <http://www.layanglayang.com>

Speciality: Diving packages to Pulau Layang Layang

PULAU SIPADAN RESORT & TOURS SDN. BHD.

1st. Floor, No.484, Block P,
Bandar Sabindo, P.O. Box 61120,
91021 Tawau, Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-089-765 200
Fax : 6-089-763 575
E-mail : psrt@po.jaring.my
Website: <http://www.sipadan-resort.com>

Speciality: PADI centre, Diving packages to Pulau Sipadan, Pulau Lankayan, Pulau Kapalai and nature tours



Pulau Layang Layang, an oasis in the South China Sea.



Pelagic fish feeding on reef top.

SEAVENTURE TOURS SDN. BHD.

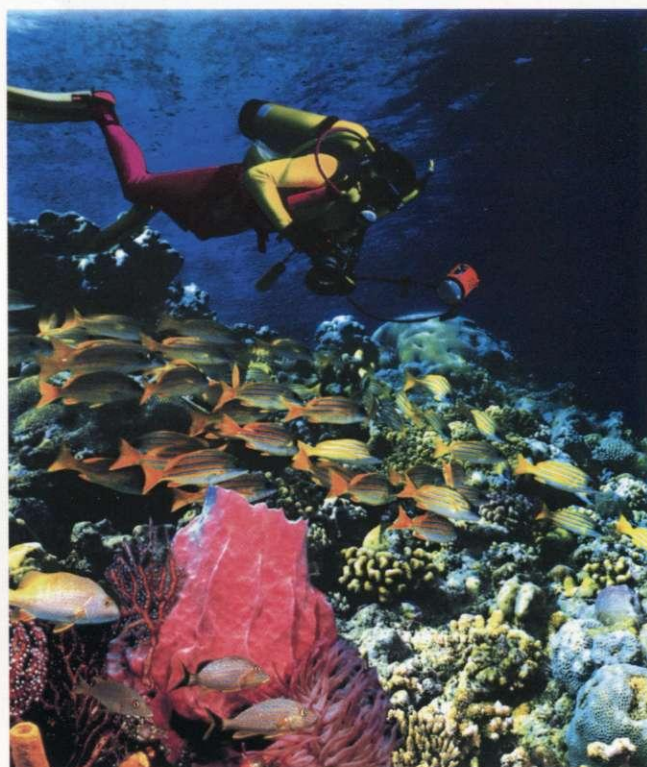
Room 422-424,
Wisma Sabah
88300 Kota Kinabalu
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-088-261 669
Fax : 6-088-251 667
E-mail : seavent@po.jaring.my
Website: <http://www.borneo-online.com.my/sv>

Speciality: Diving packages to Pulau Mabul

SIPADAN DIVE CENTRE SDN. BHD.

A1 103, 11th. Floor,
Wisma Merdeka,
Jalan Tun Razak,
88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
Tel : 6088-240 584
Fax : 6088-240 415
E-mail : sipadan@po.jaring.my
Website: <http://www.jaring.my/sipadan>

Speciality: Diving packages to Pulau Sipadan and nature tours



Typical underwater scene of a healthy tropical reef.

SIPADAN WATER VILLAGE & TOURS SDN. BHD.

TB 226, Lot 3, 1st. Floor,
Wisma MAA, Town Ext. 2
P.O. Box 62156, 91031 Tawau,
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-089-752 996
Fax : 6-089-752 997
E-mail : swvill@tm.net.my/
ken.pan@sipadan-village.com.my
Website: <http://www.sipadan-village.com.my>

Speciality: Diving packages to Mabul

SULUG ISLAND MANAGEMENT SDN. BHD.

Lot 9, 1st. Floor,
Rolmas Industrial Centre,
88300 Penampang
P.O. Box 15668, Kota Kinabalu
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-088-725 610
Fax : 6-088-729 611
E-mail : sulugisl@tm.net.my
Speciality: Diving packages to Pulau Sipadan and Pulau Sulug

TANJUNG ARU TOURS & TRAVEL SDN. BHD.

The Marina, Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort, WDT 14
89459 Kota Kinabalu
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-088-214 215
Fax : 6-088-240 966
E-mail : tatsb@tm.net.my
Speciality: Diving packages to Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Wildlife packages and cruises

TARIE TRAVEL & TOURS SDN. BHD.

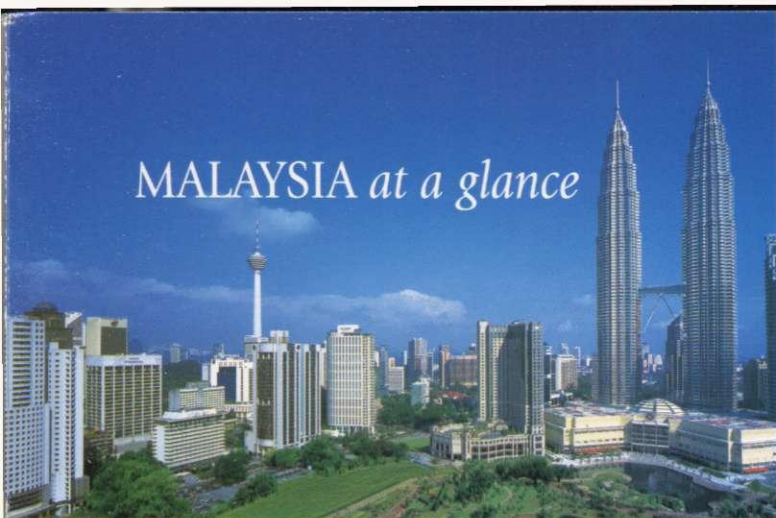
Lot 3-0-8 & 3-0-9, Block B,
Ground Floor, Api-Api Centre,
88000 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel : 6-088-267 190
Fax : 6-088-267 194
E-mail : info@borneoaction.com
Website: <http://www.borneoaction.com>
Speciality: Diving packages to Sabah Dive Guide of Malaysia



A pair of gobies hovering cautiously above its burrow.



MALAYSIA at a glance



COUNTRY The Federation of Malaysia comprises Peninsular Malaysia and the states of Sabah and Sarawak on the island of Borneo.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Located between 2 and 7 degrees north of the Equator, Peninsula Malaysia is separated from the states of Sabah and Sarawak by the South China Sea. To the north of Peninsula Malaysia is Thailand while its southern neighbour is Singapore. Sabah and Sarawak are bounded by Indonesia while Sarawak also shares a border with Brunei.

AREA 329,758 sq km.

POPULATION 22 million.

CAPITAL Kuala Lumpur.

PEOPLE Malays who make up about 57% of the population are the predominant group with Chinese, Indians and other ethnic groups making up the rest.

LANGUAGE Bahasa Melayu (Malay) is the national language but English is widely spoken. The ethnic groups also speak various languages and dialects.

RELIGION Islam is the official religion but all other religions are practised freely.

GOVERNMENT Parliamentary democracy with a bicameral legislative system. The Head of State is the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and the Head of Government is the Prime Minister.

CLIMATE Tropical climate with warm weather all year round. Temperatures range from 21°C to 32°C. Annual rainfall varies from 2000mm to 2500mm.

HISTORY AND CULTURE There is a strong interlink between the country's multi-racial and multicultural make-up and its history. Besides the local Malays and the native groups, immigrants from China, India, Indonesia and other parts of the world have all

contributed to the multiracial composition of its population. Its interesting cultural diversity can be largely attributed to the country's long and on-going interaction with the outside world and colonial rule by the Portuguese, Dutch and the British. Consequently, the evolution of the country into a cultural melting pot is evident in the unique blend of religions, socio-cultural activities and traditions, dressing, languages and food.

The country achieved independence on August 31, 1957 as the Federation of Malaya and subsequently with the entry of Sabah and Sarawak in 1963, Malaysia was formed.

MAJOR HOLIDAYS New Year's Day (January 1)* • Chinese New Year (January 24 & 25)* • Federal Territory Day (February 1)** • Labour Day (May 1)* • Wesak Day (May)* • King's Birthday (June 2)* • National Day (August 31)* • Deepavali (November 14)# • Hari Raya Aidil Fitri (December 16 & 17)* • Christmas* (December 25)*. Note: (*) - National holidays • (**) KL & Labuan only • (#) - Except Sarawak & Labuan.

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Manufacturing constitutes the largest single component of Malaysia's economy. Tourism and primary commodities such as petroleum, palm oil, natural rubber and timber are major contributors to its economy.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS Visitors to Malaysia must be in possession of a valid passport or travel document with a minimum validity of six months beyond the intended visiting period. Most nationalities do not require visas for social or business visits.

For further information, please check with the nearest Malaysian diplomatic mission or Tourism Malaysia office.

CURRENCY The unit of currency is the Malaysian Ringgit indicated as RM. Foreign currencies can be

converted at banks and money changers.

All travellers, both residents and non-residents, are required to complete the Traveller's Declaration Form (TDF). The revised TDF has two separate sections and columns for residents and non-residents to declare their currencies; the blue section for residents and the white section for non-residents;

Residents are only required to declare in detail the exact amount of ringgit carried when they enter or leave the country only if the amount is in excess of RM1,000. They are also required to declare in detail the exact amount in foreign currency, including traveller's cheques carried, when they leave the country only if the amount exceeds the equivalent of RM10,000. Residents do not have to declare any amount of foreign currency, including traveller's cheques, carried with them when they re-enter the country. Non-residents are required to declare the exact amount of foreign currency carried when they enter or leave the country only if the amount exceeds the equivalent of USD 2,500.00.

Residents are required to keep the TDF in their passport when they leave the country and surrender the TDF on their return journey instead of the current practice of filling two separate TDFs when they leave and re-enter the country. Likewise, non-residents will continue with the current practice which requires them to keep the TDF with their passport and surrender the TDF on leaving their country.

BANKING HOURS Most states: Mon-Fri: 9.30am-4.00pm • Sat: 9.30am-11.30am • Sun: closed • Kedah, Kelantan & Terengganu: Sat-Wed: 9.30am-4.00pm • Thur: 9.30am 11.30am • Fri: closed.

POST OFFICES Open from 8.00am to 5.00pm daily except Sundays and public holidays. In Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu post offices are closed on Fridays and public holidays.

TIME Eight hours ahead of GMT and 16 hours ahead of U.S. Pacific Standard Time.

ELECTRICITY Voltage is 220 - 240 volts A C at 50 cycles per second.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES Malaysia follows the metric system in weights and measures.

TELEPHONES Local calls can be made from public phones

using coins or pre-paid cards. International calls can be made from public phones with card phone facilities or at any Telekom offices.

GETTING THERE The main gateway to Malaysia is through the new K.L. International Airport at Sepang located approximately 50km south of Kuala Lumpur. The Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang serves a few domestic and regional airlines. Other major international airports which serve as entry points are Penang, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Langkawi.

The main entry point by sea to KL is Port Klang, about 50km away from KL. Malaysia is also accessible by rail and road from Singapore and Thailand.

GETTING AROUND Malaysia has excellent domestic air links and a well developed and effective public transportation system served by buses, taxis and trains.

ACCOMMODATION Malaysia has a wide range of accommodation at competitive rates. International standard hotels, medium and budget hotels, youth hostels and timeshare apartments are just some of the types of accommodation available. Privately operated motor-homes are also available for rental.

DO'S & DON'TS When visiting Malaysia, the visitor should observe local customs and practices. Some common courtesies and customs are as follows:-

- It is polite to call before visiting a home.
- Shoes must always be removed when entering a Malaysian home.
- Drinks are generally offered to guests. It would be polite to accept.
- The right hand is always used when eating with one's hand or when giving and receiving objects.
- The right forefinger is not used to point at places, objects or persons. Instead, the thumb of the right hand with the four fingers, folded under is the preferred usage.
- Shoes must be removed when entering places of worship such as mosques and temples. Some mosques provide robes and scarves for female visitors. Taking photographs at places of worship is usually permitted but always ask for permission first.
- Toasting is not a common practice in Malaysia. The country's large Muslim population does not drink alcohol.

REGIONAL and OVERSEAS OFFICES

Head Office

17th Floor, Menara Dato' Onn,
Putra World Trade Centre,
45, Jalan Tun Ismail, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.
Tel : 03-2693-5188
Fax : 03-2693-5884/2693-0207
URL : <http://tourism.gov.my>
E-mail : tourism@tourism.gov.my

Regional Offices

NORTHERN REGION

No. 10,
Jalan Tun Syed Sheh Barakbah,
10200 Penang.
Tel : 04-261-9067, 04-262-0066
Fax : 04-262-3688
E-mail : mtpbpen@tourism.gov.my

SOUTHERN REGION

Suite 5-2, Johor Tourist
Information Centre (JOTIC),
2, Jalan Ayer Molek,
80000 Johor Bahru.
Tel : 07-222-3591
07-224-0288
Fax : 07-223-5502
E-mail : mtpbjhb@tourism.gov.my

EAST COAST REGION

5th Floor,
Menara Yayasan Islam Terengganu,
Jalan Sultan Omar,
20300 Kuala Terengganu.
Tel : 09-622-1433,
09-622-1893
Fax : 09-622-1791
E-mail : mtpbkt@tourism.gov.my

SABAH OFFICE

Ground Floor,
Bangunan EON CMG Life,
No. 1, Jalan Sagunting,
88000 Kota Kinabalu.
Tel : 088-248-698,
088-242-064,
088-211-732
Fax : 088-241-764
E-mail : mtpbki@tourism.gov.my

SARAWAK OFFICE

2nd Floor,
Bangunan Rugayah,
Jalan Song Thian Cheok,
93100 Kuching.
Tel : 082-246-575,
082-246-775
Fax : 082-246-442
E-mail : mtpbkch@tourism.gov.my

Overseas Offices

AUSTRALIA

Perth
Ground Floor, MAS Building
56, William Street, Perth, WA 6000,
AUSTRALIA
Tel : 08-94810400
Fax : 08-93211421
E-mail : tourmal@omen.com.au

Sydney

65, York Street, Sydney, NSW 2000,
AUSTRALIA
Tel : 02-9299 4441/2/3
Fax : 02-9262 2026
E-mail : httan@tourism.gov.my

CANADA

830, Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C.,
CANADA V6Z 1X9
Tel : 604-689-8899
Fax : 604-689-8804
E-mail : mtpb.vancouver@tourism.gov.my

FRANCE

Office National du Tourisme de Malaisie,
29, Rue des Pyramides, 75001 Paris,
FRANCE
Tel : 01-42 97 41 71
Fax : 01-42 97 41 69
E-mail : malaisie@club-internet.fr

GERMANY

Rossmarkt 11, 60311 Frankfurt Am Main,
Federal Republic of GERMANY
Tel : 069-283 782/783
Fax : 069-133 79121
E-mail : mtpb.frankfurt@arcormail.de

HONG KONG

Ground Floor, Malaysia Building,
No. 47 - 50, Gloucester Road,
HONG KONG
Tel : 852-2528 5810/5811
Fax : 852-2865 4610
E-mail : mtpbhkg@netvigator.com

INDIA

New Delhi
c/o High Commission of Malaysia
50-M Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110021
INDIA
Tel : 9111 410 9912
Fax : 9111 6881538
E-mail : mtpb.newdelhi@tourism.gov.my

Chennai

c/o High Commission of Malaysia
No: 6, Sriram Nagar
North Street, Alwarpet
Chennai - 600 018
Tel : 9144 4343048/452451
Fax : 9144 4343049
E-mail : mtpb.chennai@tourism.gov.my

ITALY

Secondo Piano,
Piazza San Babila 4/B, 20122 Milano,
ITALY
Tel : 02-796 702
Fax : 02-796 806
E-mail : mtpb.milano@tourism.gov.my

JAPAN

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